

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH AIR FORCE
APO 234, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

GENERAL ORDERS
NO.....61

12 September 1945

SECTION XIII

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS - By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 2 July 1926 (Bull 8, WD, 1926), and pursuant to authority delegated by Headquarters United States Army Strategic Air Forces in letter, file AG 323, subject: "Definition of Administrative Responsibilities", dated 6 August 1945, announcement is made of the award of the Distinguished-Flying Cross to the following named officers and enlisted men of the 24th Bombardment Squadron, 6th Bombardment Group:

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight 23 and 24 May 1945 from a base in the Marianas Islands. Those individuals were combat crew members of a pathfinder B-29 aircraft preparing the target for a low-level night incendiary attack on important industrial facilities in the city of Tokyo, Japan. On the bombing run, enemy suicide airplanes, formidable searchlight defenses, and heavy, accurate and intense flak which inflicted damage on this plane, were encountered. Despite this, the flight was continued as briefed, the target accurately located and bombed and a fire started which was an accurate guide for Superfortresses following. The leadership, professional skill, teamwork, and determination of those veterans of many missions against the Japanese homeland reflect great credit on themselves and the Army Air Forces.

First Lieutenant PHILIP A GUAY, 0827644, Air Corps, United States Army, as Pilot.

Second Lieutenant WILLIAM E HOWARD, 0930019, Air Corps, United States Army, as Bombardier.

First Lieutenant MATHEW J HEGERLE, 02056394, Air Corps, United States Army, as Navigator.

Master Sergeant JACK L WALDEN, 20745967, Air Corps, United States Army, as Flight Engineer.

Technical Sergeant CHARLES L COX, 34724568, (then Staff Sergeant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Central Fire Control Gunner.

Staff Sergeant GILBERT GODIN, 12169021, Air Corps, United States Army, as Radar Operator.

Staff Sergeant RALPH H FORD, 11106939, Air Corps, United States Army, as Radio Operator.

Staff Sergeant RICHARD M BURGESS, 13075192, Air Corps, United States Army, as Left Blister Gunner.

SECTION XIV

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS – By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 2 July 1926 (Bull 8, WD, 1926), and pursuant to authority delegated by Headquarters United States Army Strategic Air Forces in letter, file AG 323, subject: "Definition of Administrative Responsibilities", dated 6 August 1945, announcement is made of the

award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to the following named officers and enlisted men of the 39th Bombardment Squadron, 6th Bombardment Group:

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on 26 April 1945. These individuals were combat crew members of the lead airplane of a formation of B-29 aircraft on a bombardment mission against the Miyakonaja airfield, Kyushu, Japan. Assigned the important task of touching off the bombing by their own release of projectiles, they successfully navigated the long over water flight to the objective and made assembly with the formation. Reaching the target through severe opposition, this crew located the aiming point accurately, dropping their bombs with such synchronization that ninety-two per cent of the entire formation's explosives struck within 1000 feet of the aiming point. The leadership and determination of these crew members, together with their superior airmanship reflect great credit on themselves and the Army Air Forces.

Major ERSKINE G BERRY, 0406531, Air Corps, United States Army, as Air Group Commander.

Major JACK D KOSER, 0404024, (than Captain), Air Corps, United States Army, as Airplane Commander.

First Lieutenant GEORGE STURGIS, 0674243, Air Corps, United States Army, as Navigator.

First Lieutenant CHARLES L MARTIN JR, 0206071, Air Corps, United States Army, as Bombardier.

Staff Sergeant JAMES J WESSON, 38363685, Air Corps, United States Army, as Radar Operator.

SECTION XV

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS - By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 2 July 1926 (Bull 8, WD, 1926), and pursuant to authority delegated by Headquarters United States Army Strategic Air Forces in letter, file AG 323, subject: "Definition of Administrative Responsibilities", dated 6 August 1945, announcement is made of the award of the Distinguished-Flying Cross to the following named officers and enlisted men of the 44th Bombardment Squadron, 40th Bombardment Group:

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as combat crew members on a bombing mission from a base in the Marianas over Tokyo, Japan 24 May 1945. The B-29 on which they were flying was constantly within the cone of enemy searchlights and encountered intense and accurate fire from anti-aircraft guns. Despite the fact the bomber was hit in three places while on the bomb run and there was the ever-present danger of a mid-air collision with friendly planes, they made an outstanding run and dropped their bombs in the target area with devastating results. Under a prolonged period of physical and mental strain and undaunted by the many hazards that faced them, these veterans of repeated assaults against the Japanese homeland displayed such courage and skill in the performance of their duties as to reflect great credit on themselves and the Army Air Forces.

First Lieutenant NATHAN STRICKSTEIN, 0864624, Air Corps, United States Army, as Flight Engineer.

General Orders No. 61

12 September 1945

Staff Sergeant FRANK KLAS JR, 31313020, (then Sergeant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Radio Operator.

Staff Sergeant CHARLES R MARTIN, 33572242, (then Sergeant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Central Fire Control Gunner.

Staff Sergeant CLIFFORD J CROMER, 37394830, (then Sergeant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Right Gunner.

Staff Sergeant LOUIS J BANAS, 32670237, (then Sergeant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Left Gunner.

Staff Sergeant ARTHUR A HALL, 35581288, (then Sergeant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Tail Gunner.

SECTION XVI

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS - By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 2 July 1926 (Bull 8, WD, 1926), and pursuant to authority delegated by Headquarters United States Army Strategic Air Forces in letter, file AG 323, subject: "Definition of Administrative Responsibilities", dated 6 August 1945, announcement is made of the award of the Distinguished-Flying Cross to the following named officers and enlisted men of the 44th Bombardment Squadron, 40th Bombardment Group:

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as combat crew members on a bombing mission from a base in the Marianas over Tokyo, Japan 26 May 1945. Flying in a B-29 aircraft they encountered intense and accurate fire from enemy anti-aircraft defenses and the plane was hit three times. Searchlights coned the plane on the run and after bombs away. An interceptor attacked the bomber and succeeded in hitting the tail with a twenty millimeter shell. Despite the fact the ship was damaged and there was the over-present danger of a mid-air collision because of the large number of planes in the area, they made an outstanding bomb run and dropped their bombs in the target area with devastating results. The entire flight was made under the most adverse conditions, but those individuals displayed superior airmanship, devotion to duty and courage. The actions of those veterans of repeated assaults against the Japanese homeland reflect great credit on themselves and the Army Air Forces.

First Lieutenant WILLIAM S MARKHAM, 0747448, Air Corps, United States Army, as Airplane Commander.

First Lieutenant EUGENE E ATTAWAY JR, 0690615, (then Second Lieutenant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Navigator.

Technical Sergeant EUGENE H HOOPS, 17063705, (then Staff Sergeant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Central Fire Control Gunner.

SECTION XVII

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS - By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 2 July 1926 (Bull 8, WD, 1926), and pursuant to authority delegated by Headquarters United States Army Strategic Air Forces in letter, file AG 323, subject: "Definition of Administrative Responsibilities", dated 6 August 1945, announcement is made of the award of the Distinguished-Flying Cross to the following named officers and enlisted men of the 482nd Bombardment Squadron, 505th Bombardment Group:

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight 25 May 1945 from base in the Marianas Islands. These individuals were combat crew members of a B-29 aircraft flying as pathfinder on a low level night incendiary attack against the strongly protected urban area of Tokyo, Japan. On the bomb run, they were focused in the glare of more than one hundred searchlights, attacked aggressively by eighteen enemy fighter planes and subjected to heavy, intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire. The tail gunner alone warded off five attacking planes from his position. Shortly before bombs away, two other B-29's exploded in mid air within short distance of their craft. But in the face of these difficulties, these veterans of repeated assaults against the home islands of Japan pressed home the attack, employing radar equipment to drop their bombs squarely on the target area. The work of this crew aided materially in the destruction of more than twenty-two square miles of the built-up portion of this foremost city of Japan. More enemy aircraft pursued the bomber on its homeward journey, but through their alertness and evasive action the attackers were driven off and they returned safely to base. Their teamwork, devotion to duty and determination to complete the assigned mission successfully in the face of great danger reflect great credit on themselves and the Army Air Forces.

Captain JAMES C LANE, 0440065, Air Corps, United States Army, as Airplane Commander, (Missing in action) Next of Kin: Mr. N W Lane (Father), Raves Hotel, Nacogdoches, Texas.

Second Lieutenant RALPH ROSS JR, 0931352, Air Corps, United States Army, as Pilot, (Missing in action) Next of Kin: Mr. Ralph Ross (Father), 800 Axtoll St, Clovis, New Mexico.

Second Lieutenant WILLIAM G ENGELS, 02068635, Air Corps, United States Army, as Navigator.

First Lieutenant PATRICK H SWEENEY, 0663825, Air Corps, United States Army, as Bombardier.

Second Lieutenant STANLEY J KOZUCH, 02073153, Air Corps, United States Army, as Radar Operator.

Master Sergeant FERDYNAND A DZIWEIATEK, 12134378, (then Technical Sergeant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Flight Engineer.

Staff Sergeant BILLY B CRISLER, 16031584, Air Corps, United States Army, as Radio Operator, (Missing in action) Next of Kin: Mrs. Eaman Crisler (Mother), 613 Edgar Ave, Mattoon, Illinois.

Technical Sergeant JOHN J RIGNEY, 34835317, (then Staff Sergeant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Central Fire Control Gunner.

Staff Sergeant HOYT E CLARK, 11118791, (then Sergeant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Right Blister Gunner.

Staff Sergeant BOBBIE B COOK, 33572952, (then Sergeant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Left Blister Gunner.

Staff Sergeant WILLIAM H CORREIA, 20155534, Air Corps, United States Army, as Tail Gunner, (Missing in action) Next of Kin: Mrs. Mary A Correia (Wife), 332 High St, Bristol, Rhode Island.

SECTION XVIII

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS - By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 2 July 1926 (Bull 8, WD, 1926), and pursuant to authority delegated by Headquarters United States Army Strategic Air Forces in letter, file AG 323, subject: "Definition of Administrative Responsibilities", dated 6 August 1945, announcement is made of the award of the Distinguished-Flying Cross to the following named officers and enlisted men of the 482nd Bombardment Squadron, 505th Bombardment Group:

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight 25 May 1945. These individuals were members of the combat crew of a B-29 aircraft based in the Marianas Islands flying on a night low level incendiary attack against the well-defended urban area of Tokyo, Japan. The route overland to Tokyo and the target area itself was equipped with the best and most formidable defenses of any target in Japan. Alert gunners located and called out attacking enemy fighters in sufficient time to evade their attacks. Through a long bombing run at low altitude through upwards of 150 searchlights and intense and accurate flak, these men flew to the target with great determination and bombed it successfully with excellent results. Their work aided materially in destroying twenty-two square miles of the city. Leaving the target, and while still over enemy territory for a period of fifteen minutes, these crew members fought an electrical fire in the nose of the plane which forced them to thread their way through enemy defenses to land's end with only restricted use of normal flying instruments. The actions of those veterans of many combat missions over Japan reflect great credit on themselves and the Army Air Forces.

First Lieutenant IRA G SAMMONS, 0314981, (then Second Lieutenant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Airplane Commander.

Second Lieutenant HENRY F TOLBERT, 0786369, Air Corps, United States Army, as Pilot.

Second Lieutenant WALTER D ROTHERMOND, 02079111, Air Corps, United States Army, as Navigator.

Second Lieutenant ROBERT F CROLL, 0788548, Air Corps, United States Army, as Bombardier.

Second Lieutenant GALE C REYNOLDS, 02077421, Air Corps, United States Army, as Radar Operator.

Master Sergeant GLENROY LEAYMAN, 17009003, (then Technical Sergeant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Flight Engineer.

Staff Sergeant MAX A SCOFIELD, 37741420, (then Sergeant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Central Fire Control Gunner.

Staff Sergeant RAYMOND E RIDICK, 42067679, (then Corporal), Air Corps, United States Army, as Right Blister Gunner.

Staff Sergeant LAWRENCE J RUSSERT, 33736420, (then Corporal), Air Corps, United States Army, as Left Blister Gunner.

Staff Sergeant ALFRED C MESSINA, 31422791, (then Corporal), Air Corps, United States Army, as Tail Gunner.

SECTION XIX

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS - By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 2 July 1926 (Bull 8, WD, 1926), and pursuant to authority delegated by Headquarters United States Army Strategic Air Forces in letter, file AG 323, subject: "Definition of Administrative Responsibilities", dated 6 August 1945, announcement is made of the award of the Distinguished-Flying Cross to the following named officers and enlisted men of the 398th Bombardment Squadron, 504th Bombardment Group:

For extraordinary achievement while engaged in aerial flight 12 April 1945, from a base in the Marianas. These individuals were combat crew members of a B-29 aircraft on a low level daylight raid on the Hodagaya chemical industries plant in Koriyama, Japan. The raid as the first low altitude daylight attack by B-29's against a target in the Japanese main islands. The mission required a night take-off with a maximum load and an extremely long over-water flight to an assembly point just off the enemy coast. They reached the assembly point exactly as scheduled and took their place in the formation as deputy leader. As the planes approached the target, they were attacked by five enemy fighters, which dropped phosphorous bombs. Despite this attack they continued on to the target, driving off the interceptors. The bombs landed directly on the target, aiding materially in the destruction of seventy-five per cent of the plant. On breakup of the formation over the sea, it was discovered that another bomber was smoking. This crew made radio contact and escorted the plane to Iwo Jima. Then they brought their own plane safely back to base. The skill, courage, and resolution demonstrated by these veterans of many combat missions reflect great credit on themselves and the Army Air Forces.

First Lieutenant JOHN C FROELICH, 0827847, (then Second Lieutenant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Pilot.

First Lieutenant JAMES W HUNTER, 0368646, (then Second Lieutenant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Flight Engineer.

Lieutenant JOHN R PEARSON, 02058539, (then Second Lieutenant), Air Corps, United States Army, Navigator.

First Lieutenant FRANKLIN T PETIBONE, 0929674, (then Second Lieutenant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Bombardier.

Staff Sergeant ORVILLE W OWENS, 17119330, Air Corps, United States Army, as Radio Operator.

Staff Sergeant ROBERT G BEALS, 31336893, (then Sergeant), United States Army, as Radar Observer.

SECTION XX

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS - By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 2 July 1926 (Bull 8, WD, 1926), and pursuant to authority delegated by Headquarters United States Army Strategic Air Forces in letter, file AG 323, subject: "Definition of Administrative Responsibilities", dated 6 August 1945, announcement is made of the award of the Distinguished-Flying Cross to the following named officers and enlisted men of the 421st Bombardment Squadron, 504th Bombardment Group:

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight from a base in the Marianas Islands 26 May 1945. These individuals were members of a B-29 combat crew in an incendiary raid against Tokyo, Japan. Adverse weather conditions were encountered en route to the target, making navigation and flying extremely difficult. Approaching the target, their plane was picked up by twenty-two searchlights, subjected to heavy and accurate flak, necessitating constant evasive action, and attacked by a Baka suicide plane, which was repelled by the gunners. Turbulence from thermals over the target produced altitude variations of 3000 feet, and placed severe strain on their plane and themselves. Twenty-two square miles of Tokyo were burned out by this and the following raid. A normal return to base was made. The skill, courage, and devotion to duty of these veterans of many missions over Japan reflect great credit on themselves and the Army Air Forces.

First Lieutenant BRYANT H HARRILL, 0820008, (then Second Lieutenant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Airplane Commander.

Flight Officer OTTO FISCHER III, T6389, Air Corps, United States Army, as Pilot.

First Lieutenant GEORGE R ISMAEL, 02019000, (then Second Lieutenant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Navigator.

Flight Officer RUSSELL L STAIGER, T129760, Air Corps, United States Army, as Radar Observer.

Master Sergeant JOHN R OTES, 18039684, (then Staff Sergeant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Flight Engineer. **(See note below)**

Technical Sergeant FRANK M DIPPAUL, 31416732, (then Sergeant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Central Fire Control Gunner.

Transcription of the original order dated 12 Sep 1945. Copy of original order provided by Henry F. Tolbert who appears in this order. Document transcribed 5 January 2007 for the research purposes. Family history researchers may find this document useful for locating information on family members that may have served with this organization during WWII.

NOTE: ASN for John R Otes was partially unreadable, so the ASN might be 16039684