

RESTRICTED

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I -- SILVER STAR -- By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (Bull. 8, WD, 1918) and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department, the SILVER STAR is awarded to the following-named officers, now missing in action:

ROBERT M. BLACKBURN, O-727390, Major, Air Corps, 405th Fighter Group. For gallantry in action against the enemy. On 25 March 1945, Major BLACKBURN distinguished himself by outstanding leadership and superior airmanship while leading his squadron on a dive-bombing mission. After directing the formation in a highly successful bombing attack upon marshalling yards where a great amount of enemy equipment was destroyed. Major BLACKBURN elected to return alone to the yard for further strafing attacks. Despite the intense enemy fire which damaged his aircraft, he continued to press his attack until he had destroyed two enemy planes. Major BLACKBURN'S steadfast devotion to duty and courage are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces.

CLYDE V. KNISLEY, JR., O-660161, Major, Air Corps, 405th Fighter Group. For gallantry in action against the enemy. On 8 December 1944, Major KNISLEY exhibited outstanding airmanship and extraordinary leadership when he led his squadron on a dive-bombing mission in conjunction with allied ground forces. Taking off in adverse weather conditions, he found a low cloud cover over the area restricting visibility. Realizing that the close proximity of allied troops to the target made bombing most hazardous, Major KNISLEY, despite intense enemy fire, led his squadron on three attacks, destroying numerous enemy installations and equipment and silencing gun positions. The brilliant flying proficiency and courage displayed by Major KNISLEY exemplify the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces.

II-- SILVER STAR -- 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 SILVER STAR is awarded to the following-named officers:

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EDWARD R. JOHNSTON, O-706591, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 363rd Tactical Reconnaissance Group. For gallantry in action against the enemy. On 5 April 1945, Lt. JOHNSTON exhibited outstanding courage and superior flying ability during a visual reconnaissance mission. Despite intense enemy fire, Lt. JOHNSTON pin-pointed with extreme accuracy the location of an enemy marshalling yard and made careful observations of bridges in the engaged area. When attacked by three enemy aircraft, he immediately engaged one of the planes; and displaying exceptional aerial proficiency, he out-maneuvered the aircraft and destroyed it. Continuing his tactics, he successfully destroyed two additional planes. The extraordinary fortitude and devotion to duty demonstrated by Lt. JOHNSTON on this occasion are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Illinois.

SAMUEL F. MARSHALL, O-689790, Captain, Air Corps, 373rd Fighter Group. For gallantry in action against the enemy in the European Theater of Operations on 17 March 1945. Demonstrating superior flying skill and with complete disregard for his own safety, Capt MARSHALL flew through intense enemy fire to mark an enemy target for his flight. Although his own aircraft sustained severe damage during the first encounter, Capt MARSHALL maintained his position and successfully carried out his attack and silenced all anti-aircraft guns. His destruction of enemy guns enabled his flight to make a safe attack upon the target unimpeded by gun fire. Capt MARSHALL'S devotion to duty and unselfishness in the face of danger reflect great credit upon himself and his organization and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Georgia.

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

ANDREW M. CALHOUN, O-809096, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 366th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 12 June 1944, Lt. CALHOUN displayed outstanding flying skill and superior leadership when he led his flight to destroy gun positions and three ammunition carriers, while working in conjunction with allied ground forces. Diving into a concentration of anti-aircraft fire, he released his bombs directly upon the enemy guns, enabling his flight to bomb the target unimpeded by anti-aircraft fire. Reforming his flight he led them in a series of strafing attacks which rendered additional damage upon the enemy. Then completely disregarding his own safety he continued to strafe until his aircraft was hit and he was forced to land within friendly lines. His magnificent courage and devotion to duty are a credit to himself and the Army Air Forces.

WILLIAM F. HALL, O-806670, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 366th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 31 August 1944, Lt. HALL distinguished himself by outstanding skill and bravery during a bombing attack upon enemy equipment and installations. Despite intense enemy fire, Lt HALL

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attacked at extremely low levels to destroy enemy guns and transportation units. In this relentless and aggressive attack he displayed a high degree of aerial proficiency and judgment which produced outstanding results. His unusual flying skill and courage reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces.

IV-- DISTINGUISHED-FLYING CROSS -- By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 2 July 1926, (Bull. 8, WD, 1926), in accordance with the authority delegated by the War Department, a DISTINGUISHED-FLYING CROSS is awarded to the following-named officers; now missing in action:

JOHN E. GALLAGHER, O-767185, 2nd Lt., Air Corps, 366th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 13 October 1944, Lt. GALLAGHER exhibited outstanding aerial skill and integrity during a dive-bombing mission when he volunteered for an important bombing attack. The object, a vital rail switch which fed an airfield and entered the marshalling yard on the main line, was heavily protected by intense enemy fire and located in a river gorge where attack was difficult. Unhesitatingly and without regard for his own personal safety, Lt. GALLAGHER attacked the target and demolished the switch, completely destroying a vital link in the enemy's transportation system. His devotion to duty and superior flying skill are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces.

WILLIAM J. GRAY, JR., O-715524, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 366th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 11 April 1945, Lt. GRAY, in his capacity as flight leader participated in the destruction of several fortified positions and numerous enemy tanks and vehicles near Magdeburg, Germany. Working in close coordination with the ground forces, he skillfully directed an accurate dive-bombing attack on a group of fortified positions; and then displaying a high sense of responsibility and tactical awareness, he led his flight in a series of devastating low level strafing attacks on enemy movements in the area. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he braved enemy fire to complete a successful mission. His great courage and deep devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces.

ROBERT HARTMANN, O-823066, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 405th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 30 March 1945, Lt. HARTMANN distinguished himself by outstanding aerial skill and leadership when he led his flight in a bombing and strafing attack on an enemy airfield. Although his aircraft sustained severe damage during the initial attack when the trailing edge of his port aileron was destroyed, he refused to withdraw from the flight and holding his position, he directed eight strafing attacks at tree-top level and personally destroyed three enemy aircraft on the ground. Vigorously driving home his attacks, he contributed in large measure to the successful completion of the mission, and brought great credit upon himself and his organization.

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V -- 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 in accordance with the authority delegated by the War Department, a DISTINGUISHED-FLYING CROSS is awarded to the following-named officers:

WARREN H. AUSTIN, O-805162, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 366th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 25 August 1944, Lt. AUSTIN exhibited outstanding aerial skill and exceptional leadership when he led his flight on a low-level bombing and strafing attack upon a camouflaged concentration of enemy tanks and vehicles. Completely ignoring the intensity of enemy fire, he directed numerous strafing attacks which destroyed supplies dispersed in the surrounding area. His courage and devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air forces. Entered military service from New York.

HAROLD H. BACON, O-649004, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 406th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight on 27 September 1944. Observing a train of enemy cars, five of which were loaded with enemy tanks, Lt. BACON accomplished a courageous strafing run through extremely low cloud formations and showers to account personally for the destruction of three enemy tanks. Upon returning to the target again, he successfully destroyed three ammunition cars and the locomotive. The excellent aerial proficiency, sincere devotion to duty and determination displayed by Lt. BACON reflect highest credit upon himself and his organization. Entered military service from Washington, D. C.

JULIAN G. BARBER, O-773990, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 406th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 22 February 1945, Lt. BARBER was flying on a bomber escort mission when attacked by ten enemy planes. In the ensuing fight, Lt. BARBER, disregarding the numerically superior force, turned upon one of the enemy aircraft which was pursuing his flight commander and shot it down. Immediately thereafter, Lt. BARBER again displayed outstanding courage and superb airmanship by destroying a second aircraft on his flight commander's tail. His devotion to duty and steadfast courage reflects greatest credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Texas.

CHARLES E. BENNETT, JR., O-824371, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 366th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 24 February 1945 Lt. BENNETT was leading his squadron on an armed reconnaissance mission when he located a marshalling yard heavily defended by enemy gun fire. Ordering his planes to stand by, Lt. BENNETT made a series of strafing passes in an attempt to neutralize ground fire. Although his plane sustained severe damage during the attacks, he disregarded his own safety and heroically led his squadron in an attack which destroyed or damaged numerous vehicles, and installations. As a result of his gallant action, enemy defenses were disrupted and no damage resulted to other planes in the squadron. His courage, leadership, and tactical skill represent the finest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Wisconsin.

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CHARLES R. BLAIR, O-807128, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 366th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 12 August 1944, Lt. BLAIR led his squadron on an armed reconnaissance mission near Alencon, France, where under his outstanding leadership, numerous tanks and vehicles and an ammunition dump were destroyed. After accurately dive-bombing the target, he led a series of tree-top strafing attacks which added further damage to the surrounding area. Despite the fact that his aircraft sustained severe damage during the encounter, he completely ignored his personal safety and remained in flight. The flying skill and tactical ability demonstrated by Lt. BLAIR are a credit to himself and his organization. Entered military service from Louisiana.

WALTER L. BOZARTH, JR., O-1996001, 2nd Lt., Air Corps, 366th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 19 April 1945, Lt. BOZARTH led his flight successfully to attack and rout an armored column which was advancing to counterattack allied troops. His excellent tactical knowledge of close ground support permitted him to direct his men in a fierce dive-bombing and strafing attack which forced the enemy to abandon their attack. The accuracy of his bombing followed through by the men in his flight deprived the enemy of much needed equipment. Throughout the entire attack, Lt. BOZARTH distinguished himself by his outstanding qualities of leadership and integrity. His execution of duty in the face of great danger and his brilliant achievements are in keeping with the best traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from California.

FRED V. BRANDT, O-711933, 2nd Lt., Air Corps, 406th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 24 February 1945, Lt. BRANDT distinguished himself by outstanding courage and devotion to duty when flying a rail cutting and armed reconnaissance mission east of the Rhine River. Although during the dive-bombing of an enemy marshalling yard, he was seriously injured and without regard for his personal safety, he remained in formation and aided in strafing of numerous enemy installations and equipment. His resourcefulness, superior airmanship and tactical technique on this occasion reflect great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Iowa.

CALVIN T. CARHART, O-805601, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 366th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy on 13 August 1944. Lt. CARHART displayed unusual leadership during an attack upon enemy equipment and vehicles. Sighting the enemy column, he unhesitatingly attacked although it was necessary to fly through intense enemy ground fire at extremely low altitude and despite adverse weather conditions as well as hazardous flying conditions Lt. CARHART, employing skilful flying tactics dive-bombed and strafed the objective, destroying nine tanks, eight motor transport and an ammunition dump. The courage and devotion to duty exhibited by Lt CARHART on this occasion were exemplary of the highest traditions of the Service. Entered military service from New Jersey.

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DELBERT W. CLARK, O-711948, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 406th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight against the enemy on 14 January 1945. Lt. CLARK, sighting a concentration of enemy vehicles, dived through intense enemy antiaircraft fire to strafe two gun positions which were hindering the success of the squadron's mission. His daring low-level attacks accounted for the destruction of both gun emplacements and continuing the attack still further, Lt. CLARK strafed a light tank and armored vehicles, inflicting severe damage thereto, and by his exceptional tactical ability and devotion to duty he brought the highest credit to himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from California.

MARK E. DARROUGH JR, O-770196, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 406th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy in the European Theater of Operations on 19 March 1945. Disregarding an exceptionally intense barrage of antiaircraft fire, Lt. DARROUGH executed four daring strafing passes at minimum altitude on an enemy airfield, setting four aircraft afire, after a highly successful bombing attack on the landing ground. The superior aerial proficiency and tactical technique displayed by Lt. DARROUGH in the face of concentrated enemy fire, reflect the highest credit upon himself and his organization. Entered military service from California.

MARTIN R. ENGLER, O-774075, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 366th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight against the enemy on 18 April 1945. Lt. ENGLER demonstrated outstanding aerial proficiency and unusual courage, when he led his squadron in an attack against a heavily defended armored column attempting to break out of an encirclement west of the Elbe River. He immediately ordered allied ground forces to a safe area and then led an extremely low-level dive-bombing attack in order to ensure the most effective damage and destruction to the enemy. As a result of his devastating attack, the ground forces were advanced unopposed and captured the enemy column which reflect the highest credit upon Lt. ENGLER, his organization, and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from California.

HILMAR G. ERICKSON, O-774076, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 366th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy on 28 March 1945. Lt. ERICKSON led a squadron to strike a crippling blow to enemy transportation lines in the vicinity of Hagen, Germany. Flying through a concentration of antiaircraft fire and although handicapped by adverse weather conditions, he directed a series of brilliantly executed attacks which resulted in the destruction of numerous rail cars, equipment and materiel. The unusual leadership, determination and aggressiveness demonstrated by Lt. ERICKSON under unfavorable conditions, reflect the highest credit upon himself and his organization. Entered military service from Iowa.

ROBERT C. ESCHMEILER, O-774079, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 373rd Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight against the enemy on

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8 April 1945. Lt. ESCHMEILER demonstrated outstanding airmanship and a high degree of technical skill while engaged with a numerically superior force of enemy aircraft. Without regard for his personal safety, Lt. ESCHMEILER aggressively attacked and pursued a hostile aircraft which was threatening his leader and despite evasive action employed by the enemy, he cleverly outmaneuvered his opponent and destroyed him. By his courageous and skilful actions on this occasion, Lt. ESCHMEILER removed an imminent hazard from his leader and contributed in large measure to the success of the mission. Entered military service from Wisconsin.

SAUL FAKTOROW, O-710081, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 366th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight against the enemy on 6 November 1944. Lt. FAKTOROW exhibited outstanding airmanship and a high degree of technical skill when, despite the fact that his aircraft was severely damaged by enemy fire, he maintained his position and continued the mission. After successfully bombing the objective he executed numerous strafing attack upon the target and only when his aircraft sustained three additional direct hits, did Lt. FAKTOROW relent his attacks and return to base. The unusual aggressiveness and aerial proficiency demonstrated by Lt. FAKTOROW on this occasion were exemplary of his devotion to duty and reflect the highest credit upon himself. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

EMIL FROEHLICH, JR., O-690459, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 373rd Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 3 February 1945, Lt. FROEHLICH exhibited outstanding courage and aerial proficiency when he voluntarily led a four-plane mission in a bombing attack against enemy positions. Despite the fact that heavy cloud formations obscured the target, Lt. FROEHLICH in the face of intense enemy ground fire, patrolled the area until he discovered the supply-laden motor transports. Utterly disregarding personal safety, he quickly led his fliers in the attack. Following this initial attack, he made repeated strafing attacks which added further to the damage of enemy equipment. The devotion to duty and exceptional leadership as displayed by Lt. FROEHLICH were contributing factors in the advance of allied forces in this area. Entered military service from New Jersey.

WILLIAM K. FOSTER, O-824454, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 406th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight on 24 December 1944. Dispatched to locate a large concentration of enemy gun positions, Lt. FOSTER, displaying outstanding daring and flying skill, discovered twelve gun emplacements. As a result of his keen observation, his squadron effectively bombed and destroyed eight of the positions. Observing an enemy convoy of armor, Lt. FOSTER continued at low altitude and effectively strafed the entire column, destroying five of the enemy vehicles. By his keen observation and exceptional tactical technique, Lt. FOSTER was instrumental in inflicting severe destruction and damage upon enemy transport and defenses in the area. The courage and determination displayed by Lt. FOSTER reflect greatest credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from North Carolina.

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CHARLES H. FULLER, O-824458, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 406th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 23 December 1944, when attacked by a superior force of enemy aircraft, Lt. FULLER, while covering his element leader in the ensuing struggle, personally destroyed an enemy aircraft pursuing the tail of his leader. On return to the target area, he sighted three large motor vehicles approaching a pontoon bridge. Diving through intense enemy fire, Lt. FULLER released his bombs at a minimum altitude to accomplish severe destruction to the bridge and the enemy transport. Displaying remarkable tactical proficiency, exceptional courage and superior airmanship, Lt. FULLER succeeded in destroying vital enemy equipment and materiel, thus reflecting great credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from New York.

ROSS J. GIBSON, O-830204, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 366th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 7 April 1945, Lt. GIBSON displayed outstanding airmanship and courage while leading a bombing attack against a marshalling yard in Germany. Despite the fact that intense enemy fire made the encounter most dangerous, Lt. GIBSON pressed home his attack at a very low altitude in order to insure accuracy. His bombs exploded ammunition trains and destroyed numerous railroad cars and locomotives, bringing great destruction upon the enemy at a time when supplies were vitally needed. The determination and devotion to duty as exhibited by Lt. GIBSON exemplify the finest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Tennessee.

EUGENE W. GOREE, O-702791, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 363rd Tactical Reconnaissance Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 8 April 1945, Lt. GOREE displayed outstanding airmanship and devotion to duty when successfully bombed and strafed enemy concentrations of troops and vehicles. When his squadron leader was unable to discern the target because of a heavy haze, Lt. GOREE pin-pointed the location by diving through intense enemy fire, strafed the target with gun fire, and made way for his squadron which wrought great destruction upon the enemy. His superior initiative, aggressiveness and flying skill are exemplary of the finest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Texas.

DAVID E. HARDING, O-770261, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 366th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 30 March 1945, Lt. HARDING, exhibiting outstanding courage and airmanship, led his squadron through heavily fortified enemy territory to destroy or damage an enemy convoy. After leading a successful dive-bombing and strafing attack, he sighted a plane near an enemy airfield and with two strafing attacks completely destroyed it. Disregarding his personal safety he pressed home his attacks so skillfully that enemy roads were damaged as well as equipment destroyed. The steadfast devotion to duty and superior leadership are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Illinois.

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SAMUEL D. HEDGES, O-763481, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 406th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight on 24 December 1944. Observing a concentration of enemy tanks and self propelled guns advancing in counter-attack against allied troops, Lt. HEDGES fearlessly dived through the extremely heavy anti-aircraft fire, to execute a daring strafing run at minimum altitude, resulting in the damage or destruction of numerous vehicles. By his outstanding courage and aerial proficiency in the face of withering enemy fire, Lt. HEDGES dealt a serious blow to the enemy forces in the vicinity and brought the highest credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Illinois.

BOYD B. HILTON, O-763600, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 406th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight on 23 December 1944. Preparing for a bombing run on their target, the formation of which Lt. HILTON was leader, was attacked by a numerically superior force of enemy planes. Directing the attack in the face of great odds, Lt. HILTON personally accounted for the destruction of one aircraft and damage to another. Returning to the target area, Lt. HILTON sighted an advancing column of enemy vehicles; and despite the intense concentration of enemy fire he dived to a minimum altitude to execute a determined strafing run upon the convoy, destroying numerous vehicles. The courage and outstanding aerial proficiency displayed by Lt. HILTON exemplify the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Utah.

LAURENCE A. HUTCHINSON, JR., O-691447, Captain, Air Corps, 373rd Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 7 October 1944, Capt. HUTCHINSON distinguished himself by a display of outstanding courage and valor when he voluntarily dived upon enemy barges and diverted enemy fire upon himself. As a result of this action, the remainder of the squadron was able to approach the target at a sufficiently low altitude to drop their bombs with devastating results. Returning to the target, Capt. HUTCHINSON led subsequent strafing attacks which rendered additional damage upon the enemy. Capt. HUTCHINSON'S exceptional leadership and flying skill reflects great credit upon himself and his organization. Entered military service from Maine.

PHILIP A. JOHNSTON, JR., O-732007, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 363rd Tactical Reconnaissance Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 22 March 1945, Lt. JOHNSTON demonstrated outstanding skill and devotion to duty during a bombing attack upon enemy installations. Observing a large enemy factory, he immediately secured direct hits upon the installation and a nearby railroad. Continuing his reconnaissance, and exposing himself to enemy fire, he adjusted on additional installations and obtained further hits. By his exceptional professional skill, aerial proficiency and superior ability, Lt. JOHNSTON has conformed with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from California.

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WILLIAM H. JORDON, O-813171, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 363rd Tactical Reconnaissance Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 21 March 1945, Lt. JORDON distinguished himself by a display of outstanding airmanship and courage when he voluntarily accepted the vital mission of photographing an area, for necessary information for the allied ground forces. To obtain the best possible pictures he was forced to fly at an extremely low level where he was harassed by intense enemy fire; but despite these handicaps he successfully completed his mission. The daring aggressiveness and unstinting devotion to duty as exhibited by Lt. JORDON are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

RAYMOND A. KENNEDY, O-766551, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 366th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 28 February 1945, Lt. KENNEDY led an attack upon enemy tanks which were battling a smaller number of allied tanks. In spite of the fact that a heavy haze limited visibility and anti-aircraft fire was intense Lt. KENNEDY led continued strafing attacks upon the enemy tanks until they were completely routed. The aggressive spirit and courage displayed by Lt. KENNEDY in an attack when his supply of ammunition was dangerously low reflects greatest credit upon himself and his organization. Entered military service from New York.

HARRY E. KRIG, O-820515, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 406th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 28 February 1945, Lt. KRIG while leading a flight exhibited outstanding airmanship and exceptional leadership when he engaged a numerically superior formation of enemy aircraft. Displaying superior aerial tactics, he scored hits upon the enemy and forced three to abandon flight. The enemy planes led Lt. KRIG over hostile enemy gun positions but without regard for his own safety he continued the attack until he was hit by anti-aircraft fire and was forced to withdraw from the flight. The courage and determination displayed by Lt. KRIG are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Massachusetts.

CHARLES E. KUHLMAN, O-706593, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 363rd Tactical Reconnaissance Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 7 April 1945 Lt. KUHLMAN distinguished himself by a display of outstanding courage and flying skill when attacked by an enemy plane. Skilfully evading the pass, Lt. KUHLMAN was maneuvering his plane attempting to get on the enemy's tail when another enemy aircraft made a head-on pass from below. The attacker turned and Lt. KUHLMAN turned after him firing long bursts, routing the enemy and enabling the reconnaissance mission to be completed with great success. By his superior flying proficiency and exceptional determination, Lt. KUHLMAN has conformed with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Michigan.

HOMER J. LAYNE, O-802318, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 373rd Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 20 March 1945, Lt. LAYNE, despite intense enemy antiaircraft fire, led his squadron in a devastating attack on an enemy airfield. Sighting forty enemy planes dispersed on an enemy airfield Lt. LAYNE, disregarding the heavy cloud cover which necessitated low flying where enemy fire was severe, bombed and strafed the field until ten aircraft were destroyed and thirteen damaged. The outstanding leadership, courage, and unflinching devotion to duty manifested by Lt. LAYNE

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reflect greatest credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Texas.

ROBERT H. MAC DONALD, O-820631, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 363rd Tactical Reconnaissance Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 10 April 1945, Lt. MAC DONALD, displaying exceptional aerial proficiency and tactical skill, during a visual reconnaissance mission, pin-pointed with extreme accuracy numerous railroad cars and observed the condition of several bridges and enemy barges. Despite intense enemy antiaircraft fire he checked numerous enemy airfields. The thorough and complete report of this mission proved of utmost value to allied operations. The steadfast perseverance and devotion to duty displayed by Lt. MAC DONALD are in accord with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from California.

JAMES C. MC GEHEE O-22358, Colonel, Air Corps, 373rd Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 7 April 1945 Col. MC GEHEE, leading a squadron on an armed reconnaissance mission, demonstrated outstanding aerial proficiency and superb tactical knowledge. Completely disregarding his personal safety he left the formation and made several low-level sweeps of the area. Discovering an airfield where enemy aircraft were dispersed, Col. MC GEHEE rejoined his squadron and led them in a fearless attack upon the field. Despite the intense barrage of gun fire, he released his bombs with accuracy and dived repeatedly to strafe the field. The expert leadership, courage and devotion to duty manifested by Col. MC GEHEE on this occasion resulted in the destruction of five enemy aircraft, the damage of seven, and the destruction of vital airfield installations. His actions reflect great credit upon himself and his organization. Entered military service from Alabama.

CRANSTON P. MONTGOMERY, JR., O-770105, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 406th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight, on 25 December 1944. Preparing to bomb a target area where a large concentration of enemy armor had been reported, Lt. MONTGOMERY observed enemy tanks and motor vehicles. Sweeping down upon the column he effectively released his bombs, scoring a direct hit completely demolishing the tanks and inflicting serious damage upon two motor vehicles. Disregarding the intense enemy ground fire, Lt. MONTGOMERY pursued the attack, strafing the column and inflicting additional damage. The outstanding courage, persistent determination and superior airmanship reflect greatest credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from California.

JAMES B. MOWRY, O-752225, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 363rd Tactical Reconnaissance Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight on 25 March 1945. During a visual reconnaissance mission with limited visibility, Lt. MOWRY flew over heavily defended areas observing enemy railroads and marshalling yards, calling in vital targets for fighter-bomber attacks.

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Excellent photographs taken by Lt. MOWRY confirmed his observations. The steadfast perseverance and professional skill exhibited by Lt MOWRY are in accord with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces and reflect greatest credit upon himself and his organization. Entered military service from Illinois.

LOUIS A. MURTHA, O-816918, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 363rd Tactical Reconnaissance Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight on 24 March 1945. On that date, while on a visual reconnaissance mission, Lt. MURTHA located more than thirty-five tanks massing for a counter-attack. With calm resolution and sound judgment, Lt. MURTHA called for fighter-bombers and led them in an attack on the enemy tanks which resulted in the destruction of a great number. His superior flying skill and devotion to duty reflect great distinction upon Lt. MURTHA and exemplify the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.
*Medal awarded 4.1.46, Ind 19 Sep 45 8**

DOUGLASS R. NICKLAS, O-714986, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 366th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight on 26 March 1945. On that date, Lt. NICKLAS, as flight leader, participated in the destruction of several motor transports and armored vehicles. After an accurate dive bombing attack, Lt. NICKLAS led a series of strafing attacks in the face of intense ground fire to destroy and disperse the enemy's convoy. Subsequent tree-top level attacks brought additional damage to the enemy. On this occasion Lt. NICKLAS distinguished himself by his extraordinary flying ability, tactical effectiveness and outstanding leadership. Entered military service from Maryland.

RALPH E. PATCHELL, O-767348, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 373rd Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight, on 22 March 1945. Despite an intense barrage of enemy anti-aircraft fire, Lt. PATCHELL executing a brilliant dive-bombing and strafing attack led his squadron in the destruction or damage of five enemy aircraft. Following this attack, the squadron proceeded to other airfields where further attacks were made, destroying gun positions and enemy installations. His superior airmanship on this occasion reflects high credit upon himself and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Ohio.

ROBERT N. ROUSE, O-817107, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 363rd Tactical Reconnaissance Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. While on an artillery adjustment mission, on 28 March 1945 Lt. ROUSE exhibited outstanding initiative and exceptional judgment. Observing a marshalling yard, he immediately contacted ground forces and obtained six direct hits, causing great destruction. Although his aircraft sustained severe damage during the initial attack, Lt. ROUSE refused to withdraw from the encounter, but continuing his course scored hits upon additional enemy installations. By his superior initiative, daring and skill Lt. ROUSE exemplifies the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from New York.

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RICHARD J. SCHOLZ, O-818440, Captain, Air Corps, 366th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight on 27 December 1944. Capt. SCHOLZ, while leading a mission in conjunction with allied ground forces, located an enemy convoy and, exhibiting superb skill and judgment, directed attacks upon the convoy, destroying numerous vehicles. Returning for subsequent strafing attacks, Capt. SCHOLZ was responsible for the destruction of sixteen additional vehicles. The superior leadership, courage and aggressiveness displayed by Capt. SCHOLZ are a credit to himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from California.

LEONARD C. SCHULTZ, O-429186, Capt, Air Corps, 406th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight on 5 April 1945. On that date Capt. SCHULTZ, leading his squadron on a mission in conjunction with ground forces, disregarded intense enemy fire and conducted a series of brilliant bombing and strafing attacks against enemy motor transports. Despite damage to his aircraft, he continued to press home his attack until his ammunition was exhausted. Capt. SCHULTZ'S devotion to duty and determination reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Ohio.

JAMES H. SIMPSON, JR., O-715036, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 391st Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 23 March 1945, Lt. SIMPSON displayed outstanding airmanship and skill when he led his flight to destroy numerous enemy rail cars. Despite the intensity of severe enemy gun fire, he directed low level dive-bombing and strafing attacks which destroyed sixty railcars and damaged numerous other installations. The sense of responsibility and sound judgment displayed by Lt. SIMPSON, his devotion to duty and courage reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Corps. Entered military service from Pennsylvania.

WILLIAM N. SONDAG, O-822334, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 366th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 14 March 1945, Lt. SONDAG led his flight in a series of successful attacks on enemy rail transports, destroying two locomotives and numerous cars. Although anti-aircraft fire was intense Lt. SONDAG completely disregarded his personal safety in his determination to destroy enemy transportation. His aerial proficiency and tactical skill, his courage and deep devotion to duty reflected great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Iowa.

RICHARD E. TRATT, O-766379, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 406th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 16 December 1944, Lt. TRATT distinguished himself by a display of outstanding leadership and flying skill during an armed reconnaissance mission. Observing a heavily loaded enemy train, he executed a low level attack upon the rolling stock, releasing his bomb directly upon the center of the train, leaving a large fire and causing serious destruction. While other members of the

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squadron bombed the target, Lt. TRATT returned to accomplish a brilliant strafing run through intense anti-aircraft fire to destroy the locomotive. The determination and courage exhibited by Lt. TRATT on this occasion reflects great credit upon himself and his organization. Entered military service from Wisconsin.

WILLIAM C. WHITAKER, O-809217, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 366th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 13 August 1944 Lt. WHITAKER exhibited outstanding airmanship and courage when he brilliantly attacked an enemy concentration of tanks. Despite the intense enemy fire which guarded the installations, he dived low to drop his bombs in direct hits. Determined to destroy the enemy force before it could damage allied troops, Lt. WHITAKER in a brilliant display of tactical effectiveness destroyed twenty-four tanks and damaged fifteen. Lt. WHITAKER's deep devotion to duty and integrity are contributing factors in the success of allied forces in this area. Entered military service from Indiana.

WALTER E. WILLIAMS, JR., O-766815, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 373rd Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 18 March 1945, when heavy overcast prevented an attack on the briefed target, Lt. WILLIAMS refused to release his bombs, and, displaying superior navigational skill and flying ability, he left the squadron and despite enemy anti-aircraft fire flew beneath the overcast to observe possible targets. Discovering an active marshalling yard, he rejoined his squadron, led repeated strafing attacks, completely destroying the yard. The superior leadership and integrity displayed by Lt. WILLIAMS on this occasion are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Colorado.

VI --DISTINGUISHED-FLYING CROSS (OAK-LEAF CLUSTER) --1. By direction of the President, in addition to the DISTINGUISHED-FLYING CROSS awarded by the Ninth Air Force to the following-named officer, now missing in action, as published in General Orders No. 36, Headquarters, Ninth Air Force, 1945, a BRONZE OAK-LEAF CLUSTER is awarded to him 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:

JOHN W. FEENEY, O-761744, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 366th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 1 January 1945 he distinguished himself by a display of outstanding airmanship and courage when he participated in an attack against an enemy force of fifty planes approaching his home field. Without hesitation Lt. FEENEY led his flight in the engagement and, exhibiting exceptional tactical skill, he positioned himself on the tail of an enemy aircraft and destroyed it. Despite the fact that his aircraft sustained severe damage during the initial encounter Lt. FEENEY maintained his position and aided in the final dispersal of the enemy. His superior leadership and determination reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces.

VII--DISTINGUISHED-FLYING CROSS (OAK-LEAF CLUSTER)--1. By direction

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of the President, in addition to the DISTINGUISHED-FLYING CROSS awarded to the following-named officer per Competent Authority, a BRONZE OAK-LEAF CLUSTER is awarded to him 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:

DAVID B. FOX, O-823055, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 366th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 23 February 1945, Lt. FOX distinguished himself by outstanding airmanship and courage when he led his squadron in an attack upon enemy supply lines. Despite intense enemy anti-aircraft fire, he directed his squadron in the destruction of numerous locomotives and tanks. Disregarding his own personal safety, he dived through heavily guarded areas to inflict major damage upon enemy installations thereby impeding their advance. His determination, aerial skill, and deep devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Entered military service from Tennessee.

2. By direction of the President, in addition to the DISTINGUISHED-FLYING CROSS awarded by the Ninth Air Force to the following-named officer as published in General Orders No. 32, Headquarters, Ninth Air Force, 1945, a BRONZE OAK-LEAF CLUSTER is awarded to him 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:

EDWARD W. PURDY, O-808732, Captain, Air Corps, 366th Fighter Group. For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. On 27 December 1944, Capt. PURDY distinguished himself by a display of extraordinary aerial tactics and outstanding courage when the flight of which he was a member was attacked by more than fifty enemy planes. Employing superior flying tactics and disregarding severe enemy fire, Capt. PURDY completely destroyed two enemy aircraft. Continuing his brilliant attacks, he aided in the final dispersal of the remaining planes thus protecting his home field from destruction by enemy aircraft. The determination and aggressiveness exhibited by Capt. PURDY reflect great credit upon himself and his organization. Entered military service from Illinois.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL WEYLAND:

ROBERT M LEE
Brig Gen, USA
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:



F. H. MONAHAN
Lt Col, AGD
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION: "A"
(Less units not concerned)