

GENERAL ORDERS )

23 August 1945

NO . . . . 42 )

SECTION XXV

**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, 62nd Bombardment Squadron, 39th Bombardment Group:

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight 22 June 1945. These individuals were members of the combat crew of a B-29 aircraft based in the Marianas on a strike against the important Mitsubishi aircraft plant at Tamashima, Japan. Enemy anti-aircraft fire was first encountered at the assembly point. From the initial point into the target area, their formation was subjected to heavy caliber anti-aircraft fire and vicious and aggressive attacks by fighters, some of which dropped phosphorous bombs. Despite these difficulties they maintained their bomber exactly on the briefed heading to the objective without taking evasive action. At Tamashima, where the enemy's defenses were highly concentrated, they released the bombs with such outstanding accuracy that 100 percent of them fell on the target with devastating effect. Later reconnaissance photographs revealed that as a result of this one mission, eighty-five percent of this new and vital Japanese aircraft plant was destroyed. The courage and skill displayed by these veterans of repeated missions against the Japanese homeland together with their outstanding airmanship in carrying out an important assignment reflect the greatest credit on themselves and the Army Air Forces.

Captain THOMAS A WACHT, 0796918 (then First Lieutenant) Air Corps, United States Army, as Airplane Commander.

First Lieutenant ROBERT J BRASHEARS, 0788532 (then Second Lieutenant) Air Corps, United States Army, as Bombardier.

First Lieutenant SHELDON E ELLIOTT, 02078950 (then Second Lieutenant) Air Corps, United States Army, as Navigator.

First Lieutenant JAMES O KIRK, 0818884 (then Second Lieutenant) Air Corps, United States Army, as Pilot.

First Lieutenant DAVID P SHAFFALO, 02073235 (then Second Lieutenant) Air Corps, United States Army, as Radar Observer.

Technical Sergeant HAROLD L MITHELMAN, 17153229 (then Staff Sergeant) Air Corps, United States Army, as Flight Engineer.

Technical Sergeant JAMES T ROBERTSON, 15344569 (then Staff Sergeant) Air Corps, United States Army, as Central Fire Control Gunner.

Staff Sergeant LOUIS C HARPER, 35902000, Air Corps, United States Army, as Radio Operator.

23 August 1945

Sergeant DENNIS C MURPHY, 31389757 (then Corporal) Air Corps, United States Army, as Right Gunner.

Sergeant LEO F BAKER, 11140866 (then Corporal) Air Corps, United States Army, as Left 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, 677th Bombardment Squadron, 444th Bombardment Group:

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight 22 June 1945. These individuals were combat crew members of a B-29 aircraft flying on a daylight bombing attack from a base in the Marianas against the Kawanishi aircraft company plant at Himeji, Japan. The approach to the target was made in the face of closely-pressed fighter attacks and accurate flak. Despite these hazards, they maintained a close formation, dropping their bombs with great accuracy. Post-strike photographs showed that the entire factory was either destroyed or damaged. Each member of this crew coordinated his efforts in a superior manner to obtain these outstanding results. The skill, courage, and airmanship demonstrated by these veterans of repeated assaults against the Japanese homeland reflect great credit on themselves and the Army Air Forces.

First Lieutenant ROBERT J BROWN, 0735259, Air Corps, United States Army, as Bombardier.

First Lieutenant GLENN A GERRITZ, 0865079, Air Corps, United States Army, as Flight Engineer.

Staff Sergeant FREDDIE DERLIMO, 35656355, Air Corps, United States Army, as Radio Operator.

Staff Sergeant ROBERT T HARRIS, 34701480, Air Corps, United States Army, as Tail Gunner.

SECTION XXVII

**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 enlisted men, 677th Bombardment Squadron, 444th Bombardment Group

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight 22 June 1945. These individuals were combat crew members of a B-29 aircraft flying on a daylight bombing attack from a base in the Marianas against the Kawanishi aircraft company plant at Himeji, Japan. The approach to the target

Sergeant WILLIAM F HAKE, 20384698, Air Corps, United States Army, as Right Gunner.

SECTION XXXVI

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 770th Bombardment Squadron, 462d Bombardment Group:

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as combat crew members of a lead plane of a formation of nine B-29 aircraft on a daylight fire raid from a base in the Marianas against the city of Osaka, Japan 1 June 1945. These individuals displayed exceptional teamwork, and skill in dropping their bombs with excellent results from medium altitude despite enemy fighter opposition and intense fire from heavy anti-aircraft guns. These veterans of repeated assaults against the Japanese homeland coordinated their efforts in a superior manner, making possible a successful assembly and an effective bombing run on the target. Photographs show exceptional results obtained with the area surrounding the aiming point completely destroyed. The courage and devotion to duty of these individuals reflect great credit on themselves and the Army Air Forces.

First Lieutenant JAMES E MILLS JR, 0796424, Air Corps, United States Army, as Co-Pilot.

First Lieutenant WILLIAM S O'SULLIVAN, 0692429, Air Corps, United States Army, as Navigator.

First Lieutenant LEONARD T OLSZEWSKI, 0692064, Air Corps, United States Army, as Flight Engineer.

Technical Sergeant DONALD E BARRAS, 13009952, Air Corps, United States Army, as Senior Gunner

Staff Sergeant ROBERT J SNOW, 18047898, Air Corps, United States Army, as Right Gunner.

Staff Sergeant GILES BISSELL, 12172331, Air Corps, United States Army, as Left Gunner.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL TWINING:

OFFICIAL:



ROBERT B PRICE  
Captain AGD  
Asst Adj General

R K TAYLOR  
Colonel, Air Corps  
Chief of Staff

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