



39th BOMB GROUP (VH) ASSOCIATION

• webmaster@39th.org •

This digital file contains pages from General Order 64 dated 15 September 1945 issued by Headquarters, Twentieth Air Force.

The set of orders contains 10 pages, however, only pages pertaining to the 39th Bombardment Group (VH) have been included in this digital file.

Included is the first page of the order listing the order number, date and issuing organization and the final signature page of the order regardless of if these pages include information pertaining to other organizations.

Section III – Replacement Crew 16, 5 officers

Section IV – Crew 25, all crew members

Section V – Crew 59, 5 crew members.

(GO #63, this copy, dd 14 Sept 45 contained XIV editions)

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH AIR FORCE
APO 234, c/o Postmaster
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GENERAL ORDERS)
:
NO. 64)

15 September 1945

SECTION I

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 28th Bombardment Squadron, 19th Bombardment Group.

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight 2 July 1945. These individuals were combat crew members of a B-29 aircraft on a bombardment of Shimonoseki, Japan, from a base in the Marianas. They overcame hazardous weather conditions on the long over-water flight to the assembly point. About 250 miles from the Japanese coast, the number two engine began backfiring, lessening the power output. As they began the bomb run, the malfunctioning engine failed, and the number two propeller had to be feathered. Undeterred by the hazard of flying over the target on three engines, they resolutely continued on the bomb run. They released their projectiles squarely on the city, contributing to the destruction of more than a half square mile, or thirty-six percent of the built-up portion of Shimonoseki. Returning to their base with no power from the number two engine, they made a successful emergency landing at Iwo Jima. The courage, skill, and devotion to duty of these veterans of repeated assaults against the Japanese mainland reflect great credit on themselves and the Army Air Forces.

First Lieutenant PHILIP S CROW, 0690057, Air Corps, United States Army, as Airplane Commander.

First Lieutenant MARVIN V DIERKING, 0770600, Air Corps, United States Army, as Co-Pilot.

First Lieutenant JOSEPH J STEFANI, 01822921, Air Corps, United States Army, as Bombardier.

Second Lieutenant HANSARD W MANTON, 02079212, Air Corps, United States Army, as Navigator.

Second Lieutenant JOSEPH E WEBER, 02077499, Air Corps, United States Army, as Radar Observer.

Sergeant HAROLD U O'BRYAN, 12230308, Air Corps, United States Army, as Gunner.

Sergeant HAROLD J ROBERTS, 14155024, Air Corps, United States Army, as Flight Engineer.

Sergeant JOHN E SCHENK, 33797234, Air Corps, United States Army, as Gunner.

Sergeant CHARLES H SHUMARD, 35299955, Air Corps, United States Army, as Radio Operator.

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Sergeant ALLEN H SMITH, 33733710, Air Corps, United States Army, as Gunner.

Sergeant WARREN A SMITH, 31340472, Air Corps, United States Army, as Gunner.

SECTION II

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 of the 52nd Bombardment Squadron, 29th Bombardment Group.

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight 27 April 1945. These individuals were gunners of a B-29 aircraft from a base in the Marianas on a daylight formation attack against Kushira airfield on Kyushu, Japan. Although they were in a highly vulnerable position, they drove off persistent enemy fighters which tried to disrupt the bombing run. Bombs were dropped with deadly accuracy, virtually demolishing the objective, although their plane was damaged by flak which bracketed the formation over the target. When another Superfort was seen to drop out of the formation badly damaged, they immediately went to its aid. Enemy fighters immediately began attacking the two aircraft but through the skillful coordination of these gunners, the fighters were driven off. Their plane escorted the crippled B-29 safely back to its base. The courage and devotion to duty displayed by these veterans of repeated assaults against Japan reflect great credit on themselves and the Army Air Forces.

Technical Sergeant ROY E DENNIS, 15373728, Air Corps, United States Army, as Central Fire Control Gunner.

Staff Sergeant ALBERT RETCHIN, 31416078, Air Corps, United States Army, as Left Gunner.

SECTION III

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 of the 60th Bombardment Squadron, 39th Bombardment Group.

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight 29 May 1945. These individuals were combat crew members of a B-29 aircraft in the historic daylight strike against the important urban industrial area of Yokohama, Japan. Despite the intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire encountered to the target, which far surpassed anything these crew members had previously experienced, they resolutely held the briefed course and released their bombs squarely on the target with devastating effect. At the instant of bombs away, the entire preceding element was struck by a heavy concentration of anti-aircraft fire, and two of the planes sustained such serious damage as to be forced to drop out of the formation. These courageous crewmen immediately drew along-

side one of the crippled planes to give it protective cover. During the withdrawal both were subjected to further sustained fire from heavy calibre guns which inflicted additional damage. In spite of these grave difficulties, they returned safely to their home base. The cool courage and professional skill demonstrated by these veteran combat crewmen and their determination to complete successfully the assigned mission reflect great credit on themselves and the Army Air Forces.

Captain JOHN T HORNE, 0807565, (then First Lieutenant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Airplane Commander.

First Lieutenant THEODORE P PEARSE, 02076717, (then Second Lieutenant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Radar Observer.

First Lieutenant FRANCIS W STRAHORN, 0836185, (then Second Lieutenant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Pilot.

Flight Officer RAYMOND L DONAHUE, 15017000, (then Technical Sergeant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Engineer.

Flight Officer DONALD G SMITH, T139053, Air Corps, United States Army, as Navigator.

SECTION IV

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 61st Bombardment Squadron, 39th Bombardment Group.

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight over the Japanese home island of Honshu 29 May 1945. These individuals formed the combat crew of a B-29 aircraft assigned to the highly successful incendiary daylight formation strike from a base in the Marianas against the urban area of Yokohama. Disregarding an intense volume of continuously-pointed, heavy caliber flak in the target area, these crew members unswervingly adhered to the briefed heading and dropped their bombs from an altitude of 18,500 feet squarely in the target area. During the bombing run, they repulsed a vicious coordinated attack from two enemy fighters. In addition, several air-to-air phosphorus projectiles were dropped on the formation. After bombs were away, they took their plane safely through anti-aircraft fire from a nearby airfield on the withdrawal, and returned safely to base. The cool courage, the outstanding skill and airmanship, and the marked devotion to duty displayed by this veteran combat crew materially contributed to the success of a mission which aided in the successful prosecution of the war, reflecting great credit on themselves and the Army Air Forces.

First Lieutenant EDWIN F COCHRANE, JR., 02063362, (then Second Lieutenant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Navigator.

First Lieutenant EARL R DAVIS, 0777612, (then Second Lieutenant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Pilot.

First Lieutenant STEPHEN FRANKO, 0555209, Air Corps, United States Army, as Airplane Commander.

First Lieutenant ERNEST R SEVERSON, 02070155, (then Second Lieutenant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Radar Observer.

Flight Officer DONALD M EVANS, 17003477, (then Master Sergeant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Engineer.

Flight Officer DONALD M WAKEFORD, T7131, Air Corps, United States Army, as Bombardier.

Staff Sergeant DAVID C BROWN, 34771838, Air Corps, United States Army, as Radio Operator.

Staff Sergeant JAMES K ESKEW, 35658171, Air Corps, United States Army, as Central Fire Control Gunner.

Sergeant JOSEPH W FAIR, 37489369, Air Corps, United States Army, as Tail Gunner.

Sergeant FRANK W NOVAK, 12029890, Air Corps, United States Army, as Blister Gunner.

Sergeant ROBERT R SPANNER, 42021201, Air Corps, United States Army, as Blister Gunner.

SECTION V

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 62nd Bombardment Squadron, 39th Bombardment Group.

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight 29 May 1945. These individuals were members of the combat crew of a B-29 aircraft on a devastating, medium altitude, daylight incendiary strike against Yokohama, Japan. From the initial point until long after the bombs were dropped, their formation was subjected to a shattering concentration of continuously-pointed flak, which scored several hits on their bomber, and to vicious attacks by ten fighters. Despite this fierce opposition, however, these crewmen, with outstanding courage and skill, maintained their aircraft exactly on the briefed heading to the target without resorting to evasive tactics. At the target they dropped their bombs accurately on the briefed aiming point with devastating effect. While the formation was still under intense enemy fire, they left the comparative safety of the formation to escort a severely damaged Superfortress which could not stay in position. Thereafter, until the coast of Japan was left behind, they repeatedly repulsed attempts by enemy planes to bring down the damaged B-29. When the crippled bomber was ditched this crew circled the survivors and called in its position to a Dumbo, until rescue craft appeared on the scene. The courage and fortitude displayed by this veteran combat crew, together with their outstanding professional skill, was instrumental in saving the lives of the survivors of a ditched crew, and reflect the greatest credit upon themselves and the Army Air Forces.

First Lieutenant WALTER H MCGUIRE, 01042667, Air Corps, United States Army, as Navigator.

Flight Officer KENNETH A BARNES, T131231, Air Corps, United States Army, as Pilot.

Technical Sergeant MERLE D TOMLINSON, 19032255, Air Corps, United States Army, as Central Fire Control Gunner.

Staff Sergeant HERBERT L GREER, 39184876, Air Corps, United States Army, as Radio Operator.

Sergeant JOSEPH W BUCK, 13097567, (then Technical Sergeant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Right Gunner.

SECTION VI

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 of the 44th Bombardment Squadron, 40th Bombardment Group.

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as a lead crew of the first formation of B-29's on a bombing mission from a base in the Marianas against the Sumitomo light metal industry company, Osaka, Japan, 24 July 1945. Despite intense and accurate opposition from ground defenses, these crew members brought the formation over the extremely important target and bombs were dropped with excellent results. The uncanny accuracy of the bombing is shown by the fact that seventy-five percent of the projectiles dropped by this formation were within one thousand feet of the aiming point. Post-strike photographs show the devastating results of the excellent bomb run; Seventy-seven percent of the total roof area of the plant was destroyed by this mission. All main buildings occupying the area were either damaged or gutted. The cool determination, superior airmanship, and leadership displayed by these individuals reflect great credit on themselves and the Army Air Forces,

First Lieutenant ERNEST E MAPPES, 0809013, Air Corps, United States Army, as Airplane Commander.

Second Lieutenant VICTOR W BECK, 02661126, Air Corps, United States Army, as Bombardier.

Second Lieutenant PAUL I WILCOX, 02077509, Air Corps, United States Army, as Radar Operator.

Second Lieutenant CHARLES A DOWSE, JR., 02060960, Air Corps, United States Army, as Navigator.

SECTION VII

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

15 September 1945

Staff Sergeant MICHAEL S TIMAR, 33265400, (then Sergeant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Radio Operator.

Sergeant KARL M HARSH, 35233185, Air Corps, United States Army, as Aerial Gunner.

Sergeant LEONARD W MABRY, 14148634, Air Corps, United States Army, as Aerial Gunner.

SECTION XII

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED-FLYING CROSS--By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926 (Publ 8, 70D, 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 of the 769th Bombardment Squadron, 462nd Bombardment Group.

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight 24 July 1945, as combat crew members of the lead B-29 aircraft on a bombing mission from a base in the Marianas against the Takarazuka plant of the Kawanishi aircraft company, Nichinomya, Japan. The formation was attacked by heavy and accurate flak. Despite enemy opposition and partial cloud cover they led the flights on an exceptional bombing run, securing direct hits in the target area. This resulted in damage assessment of more than a million square feet, or seventy-seven percent of the roof area of this number one priority target. Their skill, courage, and devotion to duty reflect great credit on themselves and the Army Air Forces.

Major WILFRED M MARTIN, 0407146, Air Corps, United States Army, as Airplane Commander.

First Lieutenant RICHARD M LUCE, 0668985, Air Corps, United States Army, as Bombardier.

Second Lieutenant JEROME F PAGE, JR., 02076712, Air Corps, United States Army, as Radar Operator.

Flight Officer LORETO SALPENO, T139935, Air Corps, United States Army, as Navigator.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL TWining:

R K TAYLOR
Colonel, Air Corps
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

Gustav A Neuberg
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Lt Col, AGD
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