

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH AIR FORCE
APO 234, c/o Postmaster
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GENERAL ORDERS)

NO. 65)

16 September 1945

SECTION II

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED-FLYING CROSS (OAK-LEAF CLUSTER)--By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926 (Publ 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 Bronze Oak-Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished-Flying Cross to the following named officers:

Major ROBERT E MILLS, 0406425, 792nd Bombardment Squadron, 468th Bombardment Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight, 14 August 1945, as Flight Commander in the lead ship of a formation of eleven B-29's on a combat mission from bases in the Marianas against the naval arsenal at Hikari, Japan. A radar approach was made to the target and the bombs were dropped visually. Despite heavy enemy opposition, the bombs were released with such effectiveness that eighty-nine per cent of them fell within a thousand-foot circle of the aiming point, causing great damage and destruction to this vital enemy installation. The courage, daring and devotion to duty of Major MILLS, veteran of repeated assaults against the Japanese homeland, contributed materially to the successful completion of this mission and reflect great credit on himself and the Army Air Forces.

Major JAMES L PATTILLO, 0420937, 793rd Bombardment Squadron, 468th Bombardment Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight 24 July 1945. Major PATTILLO was Squadron Flight Commander in the lead ship of a formation of nine B-29 bombers on a combat mission from bases in the Marianas against the Kawanishi airplane factory, a precision target at Takarazuka, Japan. They maintained excellent air discipline flying a close formation from the assembly point to the target, which was approached on the briefed axis of attack. Eighty-seven per cent of the bombs fell within a thousand-foot circle of the aiming point, causing great damage and destruction. The courage, daring and devotion to duty of Major PATTILLO, veteran of repeated assaults against the Japanese homeland, contributed materially to the successful completion of this mission and reflect great credit on himself and the Army Air Forces.

Captain EUGENE L BROWN, 0423507 (then First Lieutenant), 1st Bombardment Squadron, 9th Bombardment Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in a daylight strike from a base in the Marianas against the Kokubu airfield, Japan, 28 April 1945. Captain BROWN, was Airplane Commander of a B-29 combat crew. Over the target, his aircraft suffered several pressing fighter attacks which severely damaged it. The fuel transfer system was shot out, one engine was shot out, the main control cables were severely damaged, the trim-tab cables were severed, and one bomb bay door was so extensively damaged that it fell open and could not be closed. Captain BROWN set a course for Iwo Jima, although the plane was in a constant ten degree bank to the right. The main aileron control cable, which had been almost cut in half, was slowly breaking. After flying for approximately two hours, Captain BROWN found the aircraft harder and harder to control. He had his men again check their emergency equipment and then ordered them to bail out. He remained at the controls, and after making certain that all of the crew had left the plane, he stood between the pilot and

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co-pilot seats, using both control columns to keep the plane as level as possible. He then parachuted into the ocean. As a result of Captain BROWN'S courage and calm direction during this emergency, all crew members were able to escape from the B-29 and ten of them were later picked up by air-sea rescue service. Captain BROWN'S fortitude, technical skill, and resourcefulness reflect great credit on himself and the Army Air Forces.

Captain PAUL F DOSTALEK, 0808523, 43rd Bombardment Squadron, 29th Bombardment Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight 29 July 1945. Captain DOSTALEK was Airplane Commander of a B-29 Superfortress flying from a base in the Marianas Islands on a daring, low-level incendiary strike against the city of Ozaki, Japan. Shortly after turning onto the bomb run from the initial point, Captain DOSTALEK'S aircraft was caught by a host of enemy searchlights. Numerous enemy fighters attacked savagely. One fighter pressed extremely close inflicting severe damage on the airplane. Number one engine was riddled with bullets and twenty millimeter high explosive shells. It had to be feathered. Number two engine's propeller was hit and part of a blade was hurled with great force into the bomb bay, where it cut through numerous engine cables and instrument lines. The right wing and aileron were also severely damaged by machine gun bullets. Rather than abort, he flew the badly crippled plane through intense flak and continuous fighter attacks to make a highly successful bombing run on the important city. Despite the severe damage, he flew the crippled aircraft to its home base. The outstanding airmanship, and exceptional devotion to duty displayed by Captain DOSTALEK, veteran of repeated assaults against the Japanese homeland, reflect great credit on himself and the Army Air Forces.

Captain JAMES W WELCH, 0793209 (then First Lieutenant), 60th Bombardment Squadron, 39th Bombardment Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight 5 June 1945. Captain WELCH was Airplane Commander of a B-29 aircraft in the historic daylight incendiary strike from a base in the Marianas against the urban area of Kobe, Japan. The formation of which his plane was a part was subjected to intense and accurate concentrations of heavy caliber anti-aircraft fire. Numerous enemy fighters pressed their attacks to extremely close quarters in attempts to break up the formation. On the bomb run his airplane received considerable damage with a resultant loss of power from one engine. Despite the fact that this damage greatly increased his vulnerability to anti-aircraft fire and the vicious fighter attacks, he resolutely continued on course and bombed the target with devastating results. The high degree of professional skill displayed by Captain WELCH, veteran of repeated assaults against the Japanese homeland, his exemplary courage and efficiency under fire, and his determination to carry out the assigned mission reflect great credit on himself and the Army Air Forces.

First Lieutenant HERBERT R SNOW, 0690328, 61st Bombardment Squadron, 39th Bombardment Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight over Tokyo, Japan, 24 May 1945. Lieutenant SNOW was Pilot of a B-29 aircraft assigned to a night incendiary strike from a base in the Marianas against the urban area of the Japanese capital city. Displaying the utmost coolness, courage, and skill, he brought his plane to the target through weather conditions of unusual adversity, enemy fighter attacks, and continuously-pointed heavy anti-aircraft fire that reached the proportions of a barrage over the target, augmented by searchlights and parachute flares. In spite of this savage opposition, he unswervingly held to the assigned course, and bombed the target, withdrawing from the area.

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through a storm of flak. The superior airmanship and skill, as well as the outstanding courage and coolness displayed by Lieutenant SNOW, veteran of repeated assaults against the Japanese homeland, on this occasion materially aided in a mission which contributed to the successful prosecution of the war, and reflect great credit on himself and the Army Air Forces.

First Lieutenant GORDON O SPICER, 02068880, 458th Bombardment Squadron, 330th Bombardment Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight 13 July 1945. Lieutenant SPICER was Radar Operator of a pathfinder B-29 aircraft on an incendiary bombing of Uwajima, Japan. The mission was flown from a base in the Marianas under rapidly changing and adverse weather conditions. An electrical fire developed in the plane shortly before reaching the Japanese Empire. After the fire was discovered the crew stood by with their parachutes and emergency equipment preparatory to bailing out, until it was apparent that the flames could be brought under control. They encountered a severe storm centered over the objective, but through close cooperation they dropped their bombs with accuracy. Enemy anti-aircraft opposition was encountered along the entire bomb run, but his plane emerged unscathed, and successfully made the trip through the severe weather back to its base in the Marianas. As a member of this outstanding crew, Lieutenant SPICER has struck repeatedly against high priority targets in the enemy homeland and, by his outstanding ability, courage and resolute devotion to duty, reflects great credit on himself and the Army Air Forces.

Second Lieutenant AUBREY A HODGE, 0886922, 458th Bombardment Squadron, 330th Bombardment Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on 9 August 1945. Lieutenant HODGE was Radar Observer on a B-29 airplane in a daylight strike against Nakajima aircraft factory, a high priority target near the city of Tokyo, Japan. The long and hazardous over-water mission was flown through changing and adverse weather conditions and with the ever present danger of ditching their plane many miles at sea in enemy waters. He encountered severe turbulence and rainstorms when they had to penetrate two tropical weather fronts which lay on their route, but managed to keep on their briefed course. Just after reaching the Japanese coastline, overheating of number one engine made it necessary to cut nearly all power on that engine. Upon reaching the initial point and turning on their briefed bomb run in formation, it was necessary to further decrease their power on number three engine to correct a difficulty developed by the increased high power being used. Displaying outstanding airmanship and resolute determination to carry out their assigned task, this crew maintained their position in formation and dropped their bombs successfully on the briefed target. Intense and heavy anti-aircraft fire was encountered on the bomb run and break-away, but the crew successfully made their way back to their home base in the Marianas without further damage to their aircraft or injury to any crew member. Lieutenant HODGE has struck repeatedly at high priority targets in the enemy homeland and, by his courage, outstanding ability, and sincere devotion to duty, reflects great credit on himself and the Army Air Forces.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL TWINING:

R K TAYLOR
Colonel, Air Corps
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

Gustav A. Neuberg
GUSTAV A NEUBERG
Lt Col, AGD
Adjutant General

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