

ADQUARTERS TWENTIETH AIR FORCE
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GENERAL ORDERS)
NO. 86)

8 October 1945

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 man:

Lieutenant Colonel ARCH G CAMPBELL JR, 021626, 501st Bombardment Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on 25 July 1945. Acting as Group Air Commander and Airplane Commander of the lead ship, Colonel CAMPBELL led his units on a mass demolition attack on the Mitsubishi oil refinery at Kawasaki, Honshu Island, Japan, from a base in the Marianas Islands. The crews were briefed to expect the most intense and accurate flak and enemy fighter opposition yet encountered. Upon arrival at the target, Colonel CAMPBELL noted that, in view of the clear weather and full moon, his B-29 would present a very distinct target for enemy fighters and anti-aircraft fire. Undeterred by the persistence of the searchlights and the sustained barrages of intense anti-aircraft fire, he accurately released his devastating load of bombs on the target by radar release, starting fires and lighting this highly defended target for the ships following. Photo interpretation revealed that the refinery was rendered practically inoperative, and all units of the refinery were damaged. Colonel CAMPBELL, by his exemplary skill and fearless leadership, contributed materially to the success of this flight. His disregard for his personal safety and his determination to drop his bombs with maximum effect reflect great credit on himself and the Army Air Forces.

Major WILLIAM N HENSLEY, 0430482, 16th Bombardment Squadron, 16th Bombardment Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on the night of 14 August 1945, as Airplane Commander of a B-29 aircraft operating from a base in the Marianas Islands on a demolition strike against the important Nippon oil refinery at Tsuchizaki, in the northern part of Honshu, Japan. On one of the longest bombing missions in the history of military aviation, involving a non-stop round trip of approximately 3750 miles, and carrying an unprecedentedly heavy bomb load of 18,500 pounds, Major HENSLEY was exposed to enemy opposition for nearly four hours. Despite the constant hazard of night fighter interception and anti-aircraft fire, the dangers of engine failures and the many and varied adverse weather conditions encountered throughout the entire flight, the mission was flown in an eminently skillful fashion, with landfall, initial point, and axis of attack exactly as briefed. A highly successful radar synchronous bombing run was made, the bomber going directly over the target despite a heavy undercast. Radar scope photo plots revealed that his particular bomber had not only been piloted directly over the target, but that all of its bombs were plotted in the target area, and ninety five per cent fell within a 1000 foot radius of the mean point of impact. Post-strike photographs revealed that this objective was completely destroyed as the result of this one raid. By his coolness, courage, endurance, determination to accomplish this mission, and his high degree of individual skill, Major HENSLEY, veteran of repeated assaults against the Japanese homeland, reflects great credit on himself and the Army Air Forces.

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8 October 1945

Major JAMES A HOWARD, 0412964, 61st Bombardment Squadron, 39th Bombardment Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight from a base in the Marianas over the Japanese home islands of Honshu and Kyushu 4 May 1945 and 15 June 1945. On 4 May, Major HOWARD was Command Pilot of an operational squadron of the 39th Bombardment Group which carried out a strike against the airfield at Saeki on Kyushu. At the assembly area, when the lead aircraft did not appear at the appointed time. Major HOWARD delegated the lead to the deputy leader, in whose plane he was flying, and directed the formation of the remainder of the squadron with precision and superior airmanship. Due to his skill, the assembly was completed on time, and Major HOWARD led his squadron unswervingly to the target in spite of enemy flak. Bombs from his formation trained across the target airfield with outstanding results. Major HOWARD then by evasive action, led the formation through anti-aircraft fire on the withdrawal. On 15 June, Major HOWARD was Command Pilot of a B-29 aircraft assigned to a special reconnaissance mission for the highly successful daylight formation strike against the urban area of Osaka, Japan. His mission was to precede the main body of the 34th Bombardment Wing to the assembly area and ascertain the altitude at which weather conditions were most favorable for assembly. He circled in the assembly area and over the target for more than one hour at altitudes ranging from 10,000 to 25,000 feet. Major HOWARD finally discovered a spot at 20,000 feet between two layers of clouds which was large enough for the striking force to assemble. This information, along with other invaluable navigational data, was transmitted to the striking force, and he circled over the assembly area to assist while the assembly was completed. His mission accomplished, in spite of a dangerously low fuel supply, he then set a course for a return flight to base. The outstanding professional attainments of Major HOWARD, and his courageous devotion to duty, precision and skill reflect great credit on himself and the Army Air Forces.

Major RICHARD W KLINE, 023906, 15th Bombardment Squadron, 16th Bombardment Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as Airplane Commander of a B-29 aircraft on a demolition attack from a base in the Marianas Islands, against the Utsube River oil refinery at Yokkaichi, Japan 9 July 1945. Despite the imminence of enemy night fighter interception while making landfall, on the bombing run, and during the breakaway, and in defiance of anti-aircraft fire, Major KLINE piloted skillfully over the target, bisecting the target area according to radar scope photo plots. The ability of this refinery to supply oil to the enemy was destroyed as the result of this mission, according to post-strike photographs. The high degree of individual proficiency, courageous devotion to duty, and calmness in the face of the enemy manifested on this strike reflect great credit on Major KLINE and the Army Air Forces.

Major JOHN C LAYSON, 0398633, 24th Bombardment Squadron, 6th Bombardment Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight 15 and 16 July 1945. Major LAYSON was Air Group Commander flying from a base in the Marianas in a B-29 aircraft on a mining mission to the important port of Rashin, Korea. This was one of the longest combat-missions of the war. After take-off from base in the Marianas Islands, it was discovered that in order to accomplish the mission as planned, the plane would have to fly on extra power, thus reducing the fuel reserve. Despite the many hazards involved, Major LAYSON made the decision to continue to the briefed target. After they mined the objective with exceptional precision and accuracy, number four engine failed and number two engine backfired violently. Nevertheless, Major LAYSON decided to attempt to reach Okinawa rather than fly to Russia, safety, and possible internment. As a result of the exercise of superior skill

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October 1945

and judgment on the part of Major LAYSON, Okinawa was reached safely and both the entire crew and the plane saved. The high degree of professional skill, devotion to duty, and determination to press home the attack he displayed contributed materially to the success of this important mission and reflect great credit on himself and the Army Air Forces.

First Lieutenant ROBERT J MC DERMOTT, 0675090, 16th Bombardment Squadron, 16th Bombardment Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as Airplane Commander of a B-29 aircraft flying from a base in the Marianas Islands against the important Nippon oil refinery at Kudamatsu 15 July 1945. The mission was skillfully flown despite the adverse weather encountered throughout the entire flight, as well as the presence of enemy anti-aircraft fire, and the imminence of enemy night fighter interception in the target area. Lieutenant MC DERMOTT flew directly over the assigned target, according to radar scope photo plots, contributing materially to the destruction of this vital target. The high degree of individual skill, perseverance, and devotion to duty displayed by Lieutenant MC DERMOTT veteran of numerous assaults against the Japanese homeland, reflect great credit on himself and the Army Air Forces.

First Lieutenant JAMES M RICHARDSON, 0535147, 15th Bombardment Squadron, 16th Bombardment Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as Airplane Commander of a B-29 aircraft flying from a base in the Marianas Islands on a demolition strike against the important Nippon oil refinery at Kudamatsu, Japan 15 July 1945. Despite the imminence of enemy night fighter opposition and the presence of anti-aircraft fire, the airplane was piloted skillfully and determinedly over its assigned target. According to radar scope photo plots, Lieutenant RICHARDSON bisected the target on the bombing run, thereby contributing substantially to the complete destruction of this target, a fact which was established by post-strike photographs. In addition, he was plotted over his assigned objective against four other important targets in the Japanese Empire. The high standard of individual skill, courage and determination to accomplish his assigned mission manifested by Lieutenant RICHARDSON reflect great credit on himself and the Army Air Forces.

First Lieutenant JOHN B WHITTED, 0817867, 16th Bombardment Squadron, 16th Bombardment Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as Airplane Commander of a B-29 aircraft flying from a base in the Marianas Islands against the vital coal liquefaction company, Ube, Japan, 22 July 1945. Despite adverse weather conditions encountered en route to the target, the landfall, initial point, and bombing run were accomplished skillfully and exactly as briefed. In defiance of enemy anti-aircraft fire and the imminent night fighter interception, Lieutenant WHITTED flew directly over his assigned target, as demonstrated by radar scope photo plots. The productive capacity of this refinery was almost completely destroyed as a result of this mission. In addition, he was plotted over his assigned target on three other missions. The courageous devotion to duty, high individual skill, and crew coordination achieved by Lieutenant WHITTED, veteran of many assaults against the Japanese homeland, reflect great credit on himself and the Army Air Forces.

Staff Sergeant JOHN F KIMBELL, 14183148, 28th Bombardment Squadron, 19th Bombardment Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on a bombardment of the Hitachi aircraft engine plant at Tachikawa, Japan from a base in the Marianas 24 April 1945. Sergeant KIMBELL was the Radio Operator of a B-29 aircraft. The assembly area was reached through adverse weather conditions, with severe turbulences and rain

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8 October 1945

squalls. Rendezvousing 200 miles off the coast of Japan, they made the bomb run at the briefed altitude of 18,000 feet. Only six minutes from the aiming point, enemy fighters attacked savagely and land batteries sent up strong flak opposition. It was impossible to identify the target because of haze, and smoke from fires started by preceding bombers. Despite these obstacles, they dropped their bombs on the briefed axis of attack on a visual run, in the face of determined resistance by fifty interceptors. Seventy-five per cent of the projectiles hit within the planned pattern, and no explosive fell farther than 1,000 feet from the aiming point. Precision machine tools of the factory, vital implements of the enemy war machine, were utterly destroyed by the successful assault. Throughout the entire mission, Sergeant KIMBELL's skill and courage were instrumental in the successful completion of the strike and the safe return to base. His actions reflect great credit on himself and the Army Air Forces.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL TWINING:

R K TAYLOR
Brigadier General, USA
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

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

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