

Technical Sergeant EDWIN H WALKER, 37225191, Air Corps, United States Army, as Flight Engineer.

Technical Sergeant CLARENCE R WILLIAMS, 39285453, Air Corps, United States Army, as Radio Operator.

Staff Sergeant JAMES K SETPLES, 34762330, Air Corps, United States Army, as Assistant Engineer.

Staff Sergeant SILVIO J FORNER, 32450232, Air Corps, United States Army, as Gunner.

Staff Sergeant WILLIAM F ZOULEK, 36418116, Air Corps, United States Army, as Gunner.

Sergeant WALTER SMORGENETZ, 12054195, Air Corps, United States Army, as Radar Operator.

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 men of the 61st Bombardment Squadron, 39th Bombardment Group:

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight over Tokyo, Japan, 24 May 1945. These individuals formed the combat crew of a B-29 aircraft assigned to a night incendiary strike from a base in the Marianas against the urban area of the Japanese capitol city. Displaying the utmost coolness, courage, and skill, they brought their 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, this crew unswervingly held to the assigned course, and bombed the target, withdrawing from the area through a storm of flak. The superior airmanship and skill, as well as the outstanding courage and coolness displayed by these veterans 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 themselves and the Army Air Forces.

Captain GORDON A ANDERSON, 0663453, (then First Lieutenant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Airplane Commander.

First Lieutenant MILTON T CUMMINGS, 0785383, (then Second Lieutenant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Bombardier.

First Lieutenant JOHN C DAHL JR, 02064228, (then Second Lieutenant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Navigator.

15 September 1945

First Lieutenant JOHN F SMITH, 0869169, (then Second Lieutenant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Flight Engineer.

Technical Sergeant CLAYTON B WALL, 38460173, (then Staff Sergeant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Central Fire Control Gunner.

Staff Sergeant ROBERT W DAVIS, 36445187, (then Sergeant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Radio Operator.

Staff Sergeant JOHN P MILLER, 16002568, (then Sergeant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Right Gunner.

Staff Sergeant RICHARD B VOGENITZ, 34793919, (then Sergeant), Air Corps, United States Army, as Left Gunner.

Sergeant JOHN E GERBIG JR, 33899543, Air Corps, United States Army, as Tail Gunner.

SECTION XIX

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 of the 52d Bombardment Squadron, 29th Bombardment Group:

For extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight 14 May 1945. These individuals were combat crew members of a B-29 Superfortress flying from a base in the Marianas on a daylight incendiary raid against Nagoya, Japan. As they approached the initial point of the bombing run, they were attacked by aggressive enemy fighters and extremely accurate flak. Nevertheless this crew maintained their position in the formation and continued toward the target. At the release point the bomb bay doors failed to open. In spite of the danger from both flak and fighters, they requested permission to leave the formation and make an individual run on the objective. Returning to the initial point, they came in again, only to have the same malfunction occur. This time, however, they opened the doors using the emergency system, and dropped their bombs squarely on the main point of impact. Immediately after bombs away the lone aircraft was viciously attacked by interceptors which were driven off by expert crew gunnery. They escaped with only minor battle damage and flew safely back to home base. The outstanding airmanship, exceptional crew teamwork, and heroic devotion to duty displayed by these veterans of repeated assaults against the Japanese homeland reflect great credit on themselves and the Army Air Forces.

First Lieutenant RICHARD J REESE, 0753076, Air Corps, United States Army, as Bombardier.

First Lieutenant JAMES C PRATT, 0931258, Air Corps, United States Army, as Radar Observer.

Master Sergeant JAMES E WROTEN, 15341131, Air Corps, United States Army, as Flight Engineer.