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R E S T R I C T E DHEADQUARTERS 2d BOMBARDMENT DIVISION  
Office of the Commanding General  
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5 November 1944

GENERAL ORDERS )

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AWARDS OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS...*2-2* SECTION I  
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I. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Paragraph 2b, Section I, Circular 56, Hq European T of Opns, U.S. Army, 27 May 1944, and Letter, Hq Eighth Air Force, 23 September 1944, File No. 200.6, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS is awarded to the following named Officers and Enlisted Men:

ARVO E. LOHELA, O-224774, Major, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Air Commander of heavy bombardment formations on many missions to enemy occupied territory. Major Lohela's skilful leadership and sound judgment in guiding his formations to heavily defended targets requiring deep penetrations have been major factors in the successful destruction of these vital enemy installations. The outstanding tactical ability displayed by Major Lohela reflects the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Michigan.

BURTON A. MEGLITSCH, O-692873, First Lieutenant, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Pilot of a B-24 aircraft on a special mission over enemy occupied territory, 18 September 1944. Lieutenant Meglitsch's aircraft was riddled by enemy ground fire as he successfully released his cargo in the target area. With several injured men aboard Lieutenant Meglitsch displayed superior airmanship in leading his element safely back to friendly territory, where he skilfully effected an emergency crash landing without further injury to the wounded crew members. The cool courage and sound judgment displayed by Lieutenant Meglitsch on this occasion were responsible for the safe return of his aircraft and crew reflecting the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Missouri.

EDWARD L. SCHMITT, O-820838, First Lieutenant, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while serving as Pilot of a B-24 aircraft on a supply mission to enemy occupied territory, 18 September 1944. Lieutenant Schmitt's aircraft sustained severe battle damage from ground batteries enroute to the target. 20 mm shell fire and machine gun bullets destroyed the hydraulic system, punctured #3 fuel cell, injured the Bombardier,

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one waist gunner, radio operator, and a Drop Master. After successfully releasing the supplies, Lieutenant Schmitt found it very difficult to control his crippled aircraft. Unable to maintain formation, Lieutenant Schmitt's aircraft again became the target for intense anti-aircraft fire. The rudder controls were damaged, the right aileron sustained a hole one foot in diameter and an engine sustained structural damage. Lieutenant Schmitt displayed outstanding flying ability, cool courage and skill in returning to land at an emergency field without further injury to the crew. The extraordinary achievement performed by Lieutenant Schmitt on this occasion reflects the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Kentucky.

MICHAEL M. SCALZI, JR., O-685030, First Lieutenant, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Lead Bombardier on many heavy bombardment missions over enemy occupied territory and Germany. The coolness and exceptional bombing skill of Lieutenant Scalzi in the face of heavy enemy opposition have been major factors in the successful completion of these missions. His devotion to duty and determination reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Rhode Island.

Citation: For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Lead Navigators on many heavy bombardment missions to Germany and enemy occupied territory. The following officers have displayed superior navigational ability in overcoming adverse weather conditions to lead their formations to successfully bomb targets requiring deep penetrations. Their skill and devotion to duty on these many occasions reflect the highest credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

<u>HAROLD O. ERWIN</u>	O-808019	1st Lt.	Talladega, Alabama
<u>CHARLES E. WELLS</u>	O-808198	1st Lt.	Mt. Vernon, Georgia

RICHARD D. CAIN, O-684843, Second Lieutenant, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while serving as Pilot of a B-24 aircraft on a bombing mission over enemy occupied territory, 18 September 1944. Lieutenant Cain's aircraft sustained severe damage from anti-aircraft fire after dropping vitally needed supplies to the Airborne Troops. The tail section, tail turret, fuselage and three engines had been severely damaged by 20 mm machine gun fire. Lieutenant Cain, performing his own navigation, succeeded in avoiding further damage from ground batteries on his return to Allied territory. The flying skill and sound judgment displayed by Lieutenant Cain in maneuvering his crippled aircraft to safely land at an emergency field reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Kansas.

HENRY T. HOLMES, O-886572, Second Lieutenant, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Pilot of a B-24 aircraft on a bombing mission to Germany, 15 October 1944. Approaching the

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target, Lieutenant Holmes' aircraft sustained flak damage to the main gas tanks, fuel lines, and all four engines, one of which was lost immediately and a second shortly thereafter. Jettisoning all possible excess weight, Lieutenant Holmes succeeded in maneuvering his crippled aircraft to an emergency airfield in Allied occupied territory. Effecting a perfect landing without the aid of hydraulic brakes, the entire crew escaped injury although the aircraft was not considered salvageable. The sound judgment and flying ability exhibited by Lieutenant Holmes on this occasion reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Connecticut.

✓ MELVIN (MIH) KRISSEL, T-123498, Flight Officer, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while serving as Pilot of a B-24 aircraft on a bombing mission to Germany, 6 August 1944. Flight Officer Krisel's aircraft was severely damaged by anti-aircraft fire while on the bomb run. One engine caught fire, the oxygen system was rendered inoperative, rudder and elevator control cables severed, one waist gunner fatally injured and the Navigator severely wounded. Additional flak damage rendered the Radio Equipment useless, destroyed the auto-pilot, damaged a second engine and wounded Flight Officer Krisel in the shoulder. Flight Officer Krisel displayed superior flying ability and outstanding leadership in maintaining control of his aircraft and crew. Expertly negotiating the remainder of the trip with his crippled aircraft, Flight Officer Krisel effected a successful landing without further injury to crew or damage to the aircraft. The courage, skill and devotion to duty displayed by Flight Officer Krisel on this occasion reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from New York.

✓ HILLIARD W. EDWARDS, JR., 34547981, Technical Sergeant, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Engineer of a B-24 aircraft on a bombing mission to Germany, 17 October 1944. Sergeant Edwards' aircraft was severely damaged by flak while over the target. Fuel lines were severed, the nose turret knocked out and landing gear damaged. Sergeant Edwards displayed initiative and perseverance in effecting emergency repairs to conserve the fuel supply. Sergeant Edwards' engineering accomplishments enabled his crippled aircraft and the entire crew to return safely to friendly territory. The mechanical skill, courage and devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Edwards on this occasion at the possible risk of his own life reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Florida.

✓ HARRY A. REA, 36731503, Staff Sergeant, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while serving as nose turret gunner in a lead B-24 aircraft on a bombing mission to Germany, 7 October 1944. Sergeant Rea received painful face injuries and head wounds as his aircraft sustained a direct hit from anti-aircraft fire on the bomb run. With utter disregard for his personal safety, Sergeant Rea remained at his position and successfully released his bombs on the target. Satisfied that he had fulfilled his assigned duty, Sergeant Rea received first aid treatment. The courage, devotion to duty

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and perseverance displayed by Sergeant Rea on this occasion reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Illinois.

II. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Paragraph 2b, Section I, Circular 56, Hq European T of Opns, U.S. Army, 27 May 1944, and Letter, Hq Eighth Air Force, 23 September 1944, File No. 200.6, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS is awarded posthumously to the following named Officer:

✓ JOHN SMITH, O-716775, Second Lieutenant, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Bombardier of a B-24 aircraft on a bombing mission to Germany, 14 October 1944. Lieutenant Smith, flying in the nose turret of his aircraft on the bomb run, was mortally wounded as flak penetrated his chest and severed his spinal cord. Lieutenant Smith, in the few remaining seconds, released his bombs on the target area. The devotion to duty and courage displayed by Lieutenant Smith on this occasion reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Next of kin: Mrs. Mary Smith (mother), 88-12 186th Street, Hollis, Long Island, New York.

III. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Paragraph 2b, Section I, Circular 56, Hq European T of Opns, U.S. Army, 27 May 1944, and Letter, Hq Eighth Air Force, 23 September 1944, File No. 200.6, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", the OAK LEAF CLUSTER to the Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to the following named Officers:

Citation: For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Lead Pilots on many bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. Displaying great courage and skill, the following officers have materially aided in the successful completion of each of these missions. Their leadership has been an inspiring example for their fellow flyers. The courage, airmanship and exceptional flying ability displayed by these officers on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

✓ <u>JOHN C. FRAZIER, JR.</u>	O-757403	Capt.	Montgomery, Alabama
✓ <u>BENNETH R. KLEINSHROT</u>	O-687530	Capt.	Painesville, Ohio
✓ <u>FREDERICK S. TARBELL</u>	O-689611	Capt.	Roswell, New Mexico

Citation: For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Lead Bombardiers on many heavy bombardment missions over enemy occupied territory and Germany. The coolness and exceptional bombing skill displayed by the following officers in the face of heavy enemy opposition have been major factors in the successful completion of these missions. Their devotion to duty and determination reflect the highest credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

✓ <u>JAMES P. BREWTON</u>	O-693497	1st Lt.	Houston, Texas
✓ <u>RICHARD J. SAWYER</u>	O-679591	1st Lt.	Jamaica, New York
✓ <u>ROBERT W. HARON</u>	O-688670	1st Lt.	Highland Park, Michigan

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Citation: For extraordinary achievement, while serving as Lead Navigator on many heavy bombardment missions to Germany and enemy occupied territory. The following officers have displayed superior navigational ability in overcoming adverse weather conditions to lead their formations to successfully bomb targets requiring deep penetrations. Their skill and devotion to duty on these many occasions reflect the highest credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

<u>EDWARD P. BOWEN</u>	O-691702	1st Lt.	Youngstown, New York
<u>ROBERT E. JONES</u>	O-690578	1st Lt.	Gasport, New York
<u>WILLIAM C. JOYCE</u>	O-743602	1st Lt.	Framingham, Massachusetts

JAMES N. McELROY, O-812844, First Lieutenant, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement and heroism in aerial flight while serving as a Fighter Pilot on 15 April 1944. Lieutenant McElroy followed his flight leader down in the face of intense accurate ground fire to strafe an enemy airfield where he destroyed two enemy light bombers on his first pass. Although several members of his Squadron were shot down in the first attack, Lieutenant McElroy wheeled about and aggressively attacked and destroyed three more enemy light bombers. Having destroyed five enemy aircraft on the ground, Lieutenant McElroy continued his vigorous attack against the enemy and successfully inflicted severe damage to an enemy locomotive on his return journey. Lieutenant McElroy displayed courage and superior flying ability in destroying five enemy aircraft and damaging one locomotive on this mission. His extraordinary achievement and heroism on this occasion reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Florida.

EDWARD ONDRIS, O-799623, First Lieutenant, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For heroism while serving as Fighter Pilot on 5 April 1944. Lieutenant Ondris was flying on the wing of his Group Leader on a dangerous and difficult strafing mission to central Germany. Enemy aircraft attacking from an advantageous position imperiled Lieutenant Ondris' Group Leader. Unable to warn the Group Leader, Lieutenant Ondris, with utter disregard for his personal safety, decoyed the attacking enemy aircraft and in so doing sustained damage which resulted in his failure to return from this mission. Lieutenant Ondris made every effort to return to the defensive position on his Group Leader's wing. The exceptional courage and heroism displayed by Lieutenant Ondris on this occasion reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Lieutenant Ondris is missing in action. Next of kin: Mrs. Jean M. Ondris (wife), 414 Washington Avenue, Charleroi, Pennsylvania.

ALLAN T. ROBINSON, O-810570, First Lieutenant, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement and heroism in aerial flight while serving as a Fighter Pilot on 30 May 1944. Lieutenant Robinson was leading a fighter element providing close escort to heavy bombers on a deep penetration to a German target. As the heavy bombers aligned themselves for their bomb run, Lieutenant Robinson spotted forty (40) enemy fighter aircraft preparing to attack. Although greatly outnumbered, Lieutenant Robinson led his flight

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in the attack causing the enemy formation to scatter. After making several passes at the enemy formation, Lieutenant Robinson was alone and in an unfavorable position. By superior tactics, aggressiveness and excellent marksmanship, Lieutenant Robinson destroyed one enemy fighter and damaged another. His heroism in attacking superior numbers materially aided in the successful dispersion of the enemy aircraft and reflects the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Washington.

IV. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Paragraph 2b, Section I, Circular 58, Hq European T of Opns, U.S. Army, 27 May 1944, and Letter, Hq Eighth Air Force, 23 September 1944, File No. 200.6, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", the AIR MEDAL is awarded to the following named Officer:

ROBERT L. BAKER, O-775745, Second Lieutenant, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For meritorious achievement, while serving as Co-Pilot of a B-24 aircraft on a bombing mission to Germany, 15 October 1944. Lieutenant Baker's Pilot was severely wounded by anti-aircraft fire immediately after "bombs away". Assuming control Lieutenant Baker began a descent to a lower altitude to enable his Pilot to survive without oxygen. Four enemy aircraft were encountered but by skilful flying ability Lieutenant Baker succeeded in evading attack until friendly fighter support arrived. In search of an emergency airfield Lieutenant Baker encountered intense anti-aircraft fire which he evaded without serious damage. Arriving in Allied occupied territory Lieutenant Baker successfully landed his aircraft. The courage, skill and devotion to duty displayed by Lieutenant Baker on this occasion reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Colorado.

V. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Paragraph 2b, Section I, Circular 56, Hq European T of Opns, U.S. Army, 27 May 1944, and Letter, Hq Eighth Air Force, 23 September 1944, File No. 200.6, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", the OLC LEAF CLUSTER to the Air Medal is awarded to the following named Enlisted Man:

THOMAS W. NICKOLSON, 38209885, Staff Sergeant, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For meritorious achievement, while serving as waist gunner of a B-24 aircraft on a bombing mission over enemy occupied territory, 25 June 1944. Sergeant Nickolson rendered effective oxygen assistance to the Engineer of his aircraft enroute to the target. Sergeant Nickolson quickly analyzed and remedied the difficulties encountered by the Engineer as the latter suffered from anxiety in attempting to return to the waist section of the aircraft. The courage, loyal teamwork and quick thinking displayed by Sergeant Nickolson on this occasion reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Arkansas.

By command of Major General KEMNER:

OFFICIAL:

*George L. Paul*  
 GEORGE L. PAUL  
 Major AGD  
 Adjutant General

FRANCIS H. GRISWOLD  
 Brigadier General, U.S.A.  
 Chief of Staff

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