

**CONFIDENTIAL**

(GO #145, Hq Fifteenth Air Force,  
15 March 1944, cont'd)

**SECTION II -- AWARDS OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER FOR THE SILVER STAR**

1. Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in cable No. 9782, Headquarters NATOUSEA, 5 December 1943, the First (1st) Oak Leaf Cluster (Bronze) for the Silver Star is awarded the following named officer, residence and citation as indicated:

FRANK ALLEN, O-335349, Colonel, Air Corps, Headquarters 97th Bombardment Group, United States Army. For gallantry in action during a daylight bombing mission against Toulon, France, on 4 February 1944. Leading the entire Wing formation through severe weather conditions and constant enemy fighter opposition, Colonel Allen brought them through to the target, executing a perfect bombing run which resulted in grave damage being inflicted on this highly important enemy base. Despite constant suicidal attacks by large formations of enemy fighters and further danger from intense and accurate enemy anti-aircraft fire, Colonel Allen brought his formation safely back to base without further loss. By his conspicuous gallantry and determination in the face of great odds, together with his outstanding courage and superior leadership as evidenced throughout his personal combat record of over forty-six (46) successful missions against the enemy, Colonel Allen has reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Residence at appointment, Chicago, Illinois.

2. Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in cable No. 9782, Headquarters NATOUSEA, 5 December 1943, the Second (2nd) Oak Leaf Cluster (Bronze) for the Silver Star is awarded the following named officer, residence and citation as indicated:

FREDERICK C. EATON, JR., O-395142, Lieutenant Colonel, Air Corps, Headquarters 301st Bombardment Group, United States Army. For gallantry in action while leading his Group of B-17 type aircraft on a mission to bomb the Messerschmitt aircraft plant at Regensburg, Germany, on 25 February 1944. With no fighter escort, Colonel Eaton's formation encountered the first enemy fighter attack at Fiume, Italy. The enemy fighters were extremely aggressive, pressing home their attacks to within one-hundred (100) yards and in some instances actually diving through the formation. The demoralizing effect of the constant enemy attacks called for the utmost in leadership. Just short of the target, Colonel Eaton realized that it would be absolute suicide to lead his crews to their assigned bombing altitude in view of a last minute desperation attack by enemy fighters. With this in mind, he chose to remain at the bombing altitude of the formation he was following. The fierce fighter attacks he had anticipated during the initial phases of the bombing run did materialize, and Colonel Eaton's judgment was undoubtedly responsible for the safety of the few planes left to his Group. Despite the heaviest

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and most accurate flak encountered during its many raids by this group. Colonel Eaton held his formation together in such a manner that bombardiers were able to execute an accurate placement of their explosives. Rallying off the target, the Group leader saw large formations of enemy fighters waiting out of the flak area and thereupon decided to pull his planes into formation with the leading wave. Despite serious damage to his plane as well as the rest of the formation, Colonel Eaton accomplished this task and as a result was able to bring the remaining aircraft of his Group home to their base without further loss. The gallantry displayed by Colonel Eaton in leading his formation on to the target when it might have seemed best to turn back and his skill in holding that formation together through one of the most murderous attacks ever encountered on a bombing mission, reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Residence at appointment, Scarsdale, New York.

SECTION III -- AWARDS OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in cable No. 9782, Headquarters MATOUSA, 5 December 1943, the Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded the following named officers, residence and citation as indicated:

✓ BELA A. MARCOS, O-21617, Lieutenant Colonel, Air Corps, Headquarters 97th Bombardment Group, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight. On 11 January 1944, Colonel Marcos was leader of his Group in a Wing formation assigned to a daylight bombing mission against the Eleousis harbor at Athens, Greece. When the Wing formation encountered severe weather conditions that required it to pass through an overcast, the Group and Squadron formations were broken up and badly scattered and several aircraft were lost in mid-air collisions. In the resulting confusion, Lieutenant Colonel Marcos displayed extraordinary flying skill in reassembling his scattered Group, in rallying around him several planes from other Groups that had become lost, and in leading the formation over the target to complete the mission successfully. As a result of his skill and initiative, extensive damage was caused to the enemy harbor installations and shipping. Although approximately thirty (30) enemy fighters in the vicinity were seeking to attack, Lieutenant Colonel Marcos led his formation under a protecting overcast and brought the aircraft back to their bases without damage or loss. By his leadership, flying skill, and initiative, together with his courage and personal example as shown throughout over twenty-six (26) successful combat missions against the enemy, Colonel Marcos has reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Residence at appointment; Tampa, Florida.

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