

HEADQUARTERS
FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE
APO 520

G-UPD-bmr

23 September 1944.

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 3572)

Awards of the Silver Star..... I
Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross..... II
Awards of the Soldier's Medal..... III, IV

SECTION I -- AWARDS OF THE SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Circular No. 89, Headquarters, NATOUSAF, 10 July 1944, the Silver Star is awarded the following named personnel, Air Corps, United States Army, residence and citation as indicated:

JOHN A. CHRISTENSEN, O-1699316, Lieutenant Colonel, 348th Bomb Sq., 99th Bomb Gp. For gallantry in action as pilot of a B-17 type aircraft. On 21 July 1944, Lt Col Christensen led his group on a bombing mission against a vitally important and heavily defended enemy oil center in Czechoslovakia. Despite severe and adverse weather conditions encountered enroute, together with serious mechanical difficulties which rendered one (1) engine inoperative, displaying outstanding leadership and determination, he brought his entire formation directly to the target. Headless of heavy enemy opposition from both large numbers of aggressive enemy fighters and intense, accurate and heavy anti-aircraft fire, Lt Col Christensen skilfully maneuvered his group through the enemy fire for a highly successful bombing run. Under his superior leadership, the bombs from his formation were concentrated in the immediate target area, inflicting grave damage to vital enemy installations and supplies. Turning from the objective, he quickly rallied his group and brought them back to base without further loss or damage. By his conspicuous courage, leadership and devotion to duty, as evidenced throughout over forty-two (42) successful missions against the enemy, Lt Col Christensen has reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Residence at appointment: Hartington, Nebraska.

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STEPHEN W. HENRY, O-406550, Lieutenant Colonel, 353rd Bomb Sq., 301st Bomb Gp. For gallantry in action as pilot of a B-17 type aircraft. On 23 August 1944, Lt Col Henry led his group on a bombing mission against vital strategic enemy installations in Austria. Skilfully avoiding adverse weather conditions and enemy opposition, Lt Col Henry led his formation directly to the target, only to find it obscured by adverse weather conditions. With outstanding courage and instant decision, he directed and led the attack on an alternate target of equal importance. Through superior leadership and combat proficiency, he skilfully maneuvered his group through intense and accurate enemy anti-aircraft fire for a highly successful bombing run, inflicting grave damage to vital enemy installations and supplies. Turning from the objective, he quickly rallied his formation, bringing them through to base without loss. By his conspicuous courage in the face of heavy enemy fire, together with his superior leadership and devotion to duty, as evidenced throughout over sixty-eight (68) successful missions against the enemy, Lt Col Henry has reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Residence at appointment: Dallas, Texas.