

U. S. C O N F I D E N T I A L
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HEADQUARTERS
FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE
APO 520

C-UPD-bmr

12 March 1944.

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 124)

Awards of the Silver Star I

SECTION I -- AWARDS OF THE SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in cable No. 9782, Headquarters NATOUSA, 5 December 1943, the Silver Star is awarded the following named personnel, United States Army, residence as indicated, with the following citation:

For gallantry in action on 25 February 1944, while on a highly strategic bombing mission against the important enemy aircraft factory at Regensburg, Germany. Over an hour and a half before the target, this gallant crew of a B-17 type aircraft was attacked by thirty (30) to forty (40) enemy fighters, the first of over two-hundred (200) fighters which attacked their formation. An hour before the target, their plane was riddled by enemy cannon fire which shot out one (1) engine, severely damaged oxygen and communications systems, control mechanisms, and shattered the ball turret, miraculously without injury to the gunner who immediately took over a waist gun. By exertion of extraordinary flying skill, the pilots retained control and kept the plane toward the target despite intensified attacks by enemy fighters, during which another engine and the tail turret was damaged, a fire started in the ammunition which was extinguished by the tail gunner who manned his remaining gun until later severely wounded. After the plane had been brought through an intense accurate anti-aircraft fire over the target and the bombs successfully dropped, the concentrated and persistent fighter attacks began again and in a running gun battle lasting over an hour after the target, the waist gunner was killed, tail turret gunner and radio operator-gunner badly wounded and the plane further critically damaged by gunfire and aerial bombs. In spite of being wounded, without oxygen, and constantly opposed during this high altitude mission for over four (4) hours, the crew accounted for thirteen (13) enemy fighters destroyed, and many others probably destroyed, no gunner destroying less than two (2) planes and one (1) gunner destroying six (6). The stricken bomber was nursed with the highest proficiency and courage safely over the front lines and a crash landing made without further injury to the heroic crew. By their outstanding gallantry, unselfish heroism, devotion to duty and extraordinary courage, each and every man of this brave crew has reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

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(GO #124, Hq Fifteenth Air Force,
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WILLIAM P. SMITH, O-425610, First Lieutenant, Air Corps, 32nd Bombardment Squadron, 301st Bombardment Group. Residence at appointment: Fallbrook, California.

THEODORE V. CARLSON, O-756791, Second Lieutenant, Air Corps, 32nd Bombardment Squadron, 301st Bombardment Group. Residence at appointment: Corsica, South Dakota.

CHARLES J. KURELLA, O-679548, Second Lieutenant, Air Corps, 32nd Bombardment Squadron, 301st Bombardment Group. Residence at appointment: Whiting, Indiana.

WILLIAM J. WALSH, O-802497, Second Lieutenant, Air Corps, 32nd Bombardment Squadron, 301st Bombardment Group. Residence at appointment: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

ARTHUR W. BOYD, 31146915, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, 32nd Bombardment Squadron, 301st Bombardment Group. Residence at enlistment: Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

BERNARD J. CONLON, 32408532, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, 32nd Bombardment Squadron, 301st Bombardment Group. Residence at enlistment: Woodside, New York.

JOSEPH C. SCANLON, 11084821, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, 32nd Bombardment Squadron, 301st Bombardment Group. Residence at enlistment: Bellows Falls, Vermont.

ALBERT G. WIEGING, 35341712, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, 32nd Bombardment Squadron, 301st Bombardment Group. Residence at enlistment: Ft. Jennings, Ohio.

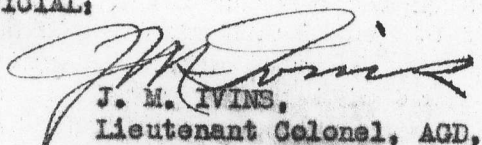
VINCENT J. LUNETTA, 37417266, Sergeant, Air Corps, 32nd Bombardment Squadron, 301st Bombardment Group. Residence at enlistment: St. Louis, Missouri.

By command of Major General TWINING:

Y. H. TAYLOR,
Colonel, GSC,
Chief of Staff.

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OFFICIAL:


J. M. IVINS,
Lieutenant Colonel, AGD,
Adjutant General.

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