

**CONFIDENTIAL**

(GO # 149, Hq Fifteenth Air Force,  
22 March 1944, cont'd)

crew. Colonel Rogers' complete disregard for his own injuries, his gallantry in action, and his unfailing devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon himself and has upheld the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Residence at appointment: West Haven, Connecticut.

**SECTION III -- AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER FOR THE SILVER STAR**

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in cable No. 9782, Headquarters NATOUFA, 5 December 1943, and Circular No. 26, Headquarters NATOUFA, 6 March 1944, the First (1st) Oak Leaf Cluster (Bronze) for the Silver Star is awarded the following named officer, residence and citation as indicated:

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✓ **KARL T. BARTHELMESS, O-22429, 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 enemy aircraft factory at Steyr, Austria, on 24 February 1944. Colonel Barthelmess led forty (40) aircraft of his group to bomb a vital industrial factory producing airplane parts, a dangerous mission in view of the fact that no fighter escort could be expected until the withdrawal. Shortly after entering enemy territory, the formation was challenged by enemy interceptors estimated at from one-hundred (100) to one-hundred and fifty (150) airplanes. These fighters used all tactics possible to prevent the group from reaching its target, some flying above the elements dropping high explosive bombs, while others carried bombs attached to cables through the formation, firing rockets and high caliber cannon shell into the midst of the formation. Despite these attacks Colonel Barthelmess led his group on to the target, successfully bombing this enemy manufacturing center with splendid results. Shortly after the bombing run, Colonel Barthelmess noted a burning B-17 lagging behind, and caused his formation to reduce its speed and altitude so that the crippled craft might have protection back to friendly territory. Another plane of the formation was also picked up and escorted back despite further enemy opposition. By this courageous action, Colonel Barthelmess was able to bring the remainder of his unit back to base without further loss. His gallantry and leadership as displayed by completing a mission of great hazard regardless of odds, during which his formation destroyed ten (10) and probably destroyed six (6) additional, enemy aircraft, has reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Residence at appointment: Clayton, New Mexico.**

**SECTION IV -- 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 NATOUFA, 5 December 1943, and Circular No. 26, Headquarters NATOUFA, 6 March 1944, the Distinguished

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