

U S R E S T R I C T E D
(Equals British RESTRICTED)

HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE
APO 520 U S ARMY

(G-29)

GENERAL ORDERS)
:
NUMBER 15)

28 November 1943

Section

Awards of Silver Star..... I

SECTION I -- AWARDS OF SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Circular No. 126, Headquarters NATOUA, 2 July 1943, the Silver Star is awarded the following named personnel, residence and citation as indicated:

WILLIAM J. EMERSON, O-430996, Captain, Air Corps, United States Army. For gallantry in action. On 15 July 1943, Captain Emerson was pilot of a B-17 on a mission to bomb the marshalling yards at ***** Italy. Just prior to the bombing run, the group which he was leading was subjected to such an intense and accurate barrage of anti-aircraft fire that several of the planes in the formation were severely damaged. Fifteen (15) enemy fighters intercepted the bombers and began to concentrate on the group directly ahead of Captain Emerson's group. Observing that this lead group was bearing the brunt of the enemy fire and had already lost one (1) plane, Captain Emerson led his formation into the line of fire so that the cumulative force of their own fire power could be brought to bear upon the enemy. He then maneuvered his group in such a way as to lend maximum protection to the badly battered lead group, although he realized that this action would subject his own formation to the concentrated attention of the attacking fighters. Both groups continued over the target in this manner and completed a most successful bombing run. The quick thinking and courageous action displayed by Captain Emerson made possible the completion of this mission and at the same time kept our casualties down to a minimum. By his outstanding leadership and sound judgment, he has upheld the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Residence at appointment: Mount Pleasant, Michigan.

Approved: _____, Major General, Air Corps, United States Army