

Squadron Special Outline History Continued.

J. Distinguished:  
August 1943 (Cont'd.) The Distinguished Flying Cross.

ROBERT L. ELLIS, 39382564, S/Sgt, Sandpoint, Idaho. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the North African Theatre of Operations as ball-turret gunner on a B-17 type aircraft. Upon approaching the bomb run over Marsala on 11 May 1943, Sgt. Ellis' plane was badly damaged by enemy aircraft fire and isolated from its squadron. As ten hostile fighters closed in to attack, Sgt. Ellis' eyes were injured by many splinters of flying glass when a direct hit from a 20 mm shell penetrated his turret. Although stunned and in great pain, Sgt. Ellis steadfastly remained at his guns and shot down one ME 109 which was within one hundred yards of the bomber. In assisting in dispersing repeated attacks, his accurate marksmanship and selfless devotion to duty played an important part in enabling his pilot to return safely to his base. His zeal and fidelity reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army Air Forces. GO #161, HQ Northwest African Air Forces, 13 August 1943.

KEMPSTER M. LASHLEIS, 6548465, Staff Sergeant, Spokane, Washington. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the European and North African Theatres of Operations as tail gunner on a B-17 type aircraft. On 21 June 1943, four enemy fighters attacked his formation and set fire to the number one engine of his bomber, totally disabling one gun in the tail gunner's compartment, and damaging the other. Although Sergeant LaShells was oazed by the burst, his quick thinking and coolness under fire enabled him to repair his one remaining gun, with which he was able to ward off further attacks. His courage,