

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE
APO 520

C-UPD-rmb

GENERAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 2571)

16 August 1944.

Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross and/or Oak Leaf
Cluster for the Distinguished Flying Cross. I

Section

SECTION I - AWARDS OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS AND/OR OAK
LEAF CLUSTER FOR THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Circular No. 89, Headquarters NATOUSA, 10 July 1944, the Distinguished Flying Cross and/or Oak Leaf Cluster for the Distinguished Flying Cross, in the categories as listed, is awarded the following named personnel, Air Corps, United States Army, position, date of act and residence as indicated, with the following citation:

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the North African and Mediterranean theatres of operations. Consistently, throughout many combat missions against highly important and strategic enemy installations, the personnel listed below have demonstrated the highest order of professional skill, heroism, leadership and devotion to duty. Although regularly and frequently opposed by large numbers of enemy fighters, together with intense, accurate, and heavy anti-aircraft fire, during which their aircraft were at times seriously damaged, these men have fought through to their targets and aided in the destruction of these vital objectives. Despite severe and adverse weather conditions, rugged terrain, and many other major obstacles and hazards, these men have gallantly engaged, fought and defeated the enemy without regard for their own personal safety and against great odds. Their conspicuous and extraordinary achievements throughout these many missions against the enemy have been of inestimable value to successful combat operations and have reflected great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

EDMUND F. O'CONNOR, O-26340, Captain, 759th Bomb Sq, 459th Bomb Gp, Pilot, Rumania, 5 May 1944. Residence at appointment: Fitchburg, Massachusetts.

SAM J. BENIGNO, O-690911, First Lieutenant, 756th Bomb Sq, 459th Bomb Gp, Pilot, Rumania, 15 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Oakland, California.

JOHN B. DAVIS, JR., O-744834, First Lieutenant, 756th Bomb Sq, 459th Bomb Gp, Navigator, Germany, 20 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Marion, Indiana.

RALPH J. DAVIS, O-690552, First Lieutenant, 759th Bomb Sq, 459th Bomb Gp, Bombardier, Austria, 12 April 1944. Residence at appointment: Farmville, Virginia.

WILLIAM J. FENNER, O-542721, First Lieutenant, 759th Bomb Sq, 459th Bomb Gp, Pilot, Rumania, 4 April 1944. Residence at appointment: Anaconda, Montana.

R E S T R I C T E D

(GO #2571, Hq Fifteenth Air Force, 16 August 1944, cont'd)

JAMES A. KIRTLAND, O-811215, First Lieutenant, 738th Bomb Sq, 454th Bomb Gp, Pilot, Austria, 16 June 1944. Residence at appointment: Pickney, Michigan.

WILLIAM S. WILLIAMS, O-692987, First Lieutenant, 756th Bomb Sq, 459th Bomb Gp, Pilot, Germany, 7 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Wild Rose, Wisconsin.

CHARLES K. ANDERSON, O-694293, Second Lieutenant, 756th Bomb Sq, 459th Bomb Gp, Navigator, Germany, 20 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Madison, Wisconsin.

GEORGE E. BECRAFT, O-817616, Second Lieutenant, 756th Bomb Sq, 459th Bomb Gp, Pilot, Germany, 29 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Sedro-Wooley, Washington.

THOMAS H. GERZEL, O-808534, Second Lieutenant, 738th Bomb Sq, 454th Bomb Gp, Co-pilot, Austria, 16 June 1944. Residence at appointment: Little Falls, New York.

THOMAS W. WILLIAMSON, O-690753, Second Lieutenant, 759th Bomb Sq, 459th Bomb Gp, Navigator, Austria, 23 April 1944. Residence at appointment: Peebles, Ohio.

JACK T. BINGHAM, 19010947, Master Sergeant, 756th Bomb Sq, 459th Bomb Gp, Engineer-Gunner, France, 12 July 1944. Residence at enlistment: Ogden, Utah.

FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER (BRONZE)

WARD E. BENKELMAN, O-432874, Captain, 759th Bomb Sq, 459th Bomb Gp, Pilot, Rumania, 15 April 1944. Residence at appointment: McDonald, Kansas.

RALPH J. DAVIS, O-690552, First Lieutenant, 759th Bomb Sq, 459th Bomb Gp, Bombardier, Germany, 20 July 1944. Residence at appointment: Farmville, Virginia.

By command of Major General TWINING:

R. K. TAYLOR,
Colonel, GSC,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

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

DISTRIBUTION: "D"
plus: 1 - Ea Individual Concerned.

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