

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH AIR FORCE
APO 234, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

22 September 1945

GENERAL ORDERS)
:
NO71)

SECTION VII

Section XI, General Orders No 63, this hq, dated 14 September 1945, pertaining to the announcement of the award of the Air Medal to personnel of the 509th Composite Group is hereby rescinded.

SECTION VIII

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED-FLYING CROSS--By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 2 July 1926 (Bull 8, WD, 1926), and pursuant to authority delegated by Headquarters United States Army Strategic Air Forces in letter, file AG 323, subject: "Definition of Administrative Responsibilities", dated 6 August 1945, announcement is made of the award of the Distinguished-Flying Cross to the following named officer and enlisted men of the 509th Composite Group.

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight 9 August 1945 from a base in the Marianas Islands. These individuals were combat crew members of a B-29 aircraft carrying the second atomic bomb employed in the history of warfare. With great skill, they flew their Superfort 1500 miles over open water to the Japanese Empire. Finding their primary objective obscured by smoke, they made three bomb runs in an effort to fulfill the original plans, but were then forced to turn to the secondary target. Despite a rapidly dwindling gasoline reserve, they reached the target and released the bomb on the important industrial city of Nagasaki with devastating effect. The power of this missile was so great as to threaten disintegration of the aircraft if it had been detonated while still in the bomb bay by a burst of flak, or a hit by enemy fighters or if it was dropped while the B-29 was close to the ground, as might have occurred during engine failure. The outstanding teamwork, skill, and airmanship displayed by this crew in the successful flight despite the risks involved in carrying out this mission with this powerful new weapon of warfare reflect great credit on themselves and the Army Air Forces.

Captain JAMES F VAN PELT, JR., 0390421, Air Corps, United States Army, as Navigator.

C. D. Albury
First Lieutenant CHARLES D ALBURY, 0807658, Air Corps, United States Army, as Pilot.

✓ First Lieutenant JACOB BESER, 0855461, Air Corps, United States Army, as Radar-Counter-Measure Officer.

Second Lieutenant PHILLIP M BARNES, 0868694, Air Corps, United States Army, as Electronics Officer.

Second Lieutenant FRED J OLIVI, 02067182, Air Corps, United States Army, as Co-Pilot.

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Master Sergeant JOHN D KUHAREK, 6842985, Air Corps, United States Army, as Flight Engineer.

Staff Sergeant EDWARD K BUCKLEY, 35384548, Air Corps, United States Army, as Radar Operator.

Sergeant ALBERT T DE HART, 38388039, Air Corps, United States Army, as Central Fire Control Gunner.

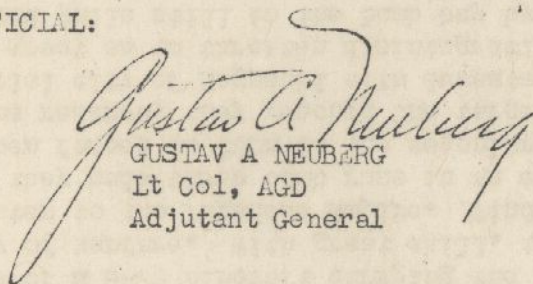
Sergeant RAYMOND G GALLAGHER, 36708662, Air Corps, United States Army, as Airplane Mechanic Gunner.

Sergeant ABE M SPITZER, 12181015, Air Corps, United States Army, as Radio Operator.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL TWINING:

R K TAYLOR
Colonel, Air Corps
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:


GUSTAV A NEUBERG
Lt Col, AGD
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION: D

- A - CG, 313th Bomb Wg
- 5 - CG, 58th, 73rd, 314th, 315th Bomb Wg
- 4 - Ea O & EM concerned
- 3 - TAG, Attn: Awards & Decorations Br, Wash 25, D C
- 2 - USASTAF, (SCU), APO 953
- 1 - CG, AAF, Attn: A-2 Div, Air Staff