

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

GENERAL ORDERS)

20 September 1945

NO. 69)

SECTION I

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR--By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (Bull 43, 1918), 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 Silver Star to the following named officers and enlisted men of the 509th Composite Group:

For gallantry in action while engaged in aerial flight against the Japanese Empire on 6 August 1945. These individuals were combat crew members of the B-29 aircraft which flew from a base in the Marianas Islands to drop on the city of Hiroshima, Japan, the first atomic bomb to be used in warfare. Flying 1500 miles over open water to the coast of Japan, they manned their assigned positions and crossed the island of Shikoku and the Inland Sea. They constantly faced the danger of being hit by anti-aircraft fire, enemy fighters, or suffering mechanical or other failures which would intensify the risks of carrying this powerful missile. Throughout the mission the element of hazard from the unknown prevailed, for this was the first time this bomb, much more destructive than any other in existence, had been dropped from an airplane. The effect it would have on the airplane and these crew members was only to be estimated. Shortly after 0900 they brought the plane in over the city, and at 0915 the bomb release was pressed. The bomb cleared, and fell towards the planned objective. They then headed from the area and, despite a minor effect from the detonation, returned safely to their home base. By their courage and skillful performance of duty achieved in outstanding fashion despite the dangers involved in accomplishment of this historic mission, these individuals distinguished themselves by extraordinary achievement and reflect great credit on themselves and the Army Air Forces.

Major THOMAS W FEREBEE, 0443490, Air Corps, United States Army, as Bombardier.

Captain ROBERT LEWIS, 0668015, Air Corps, United States Army, as Co-Pilot.

Dutch Van Huk, Navigator - Enola Gay
Captain THEODORE J VAN KIRK, 0699024, Air Corps, United States Army, as Navigator.

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

Second Lieutenant MORRIS R JEPSON, 0868456, Air Corps, United States Army, as Electronics Officer.

Staff Sergeant GEORGE R CARON, 12143134, Air Corps, United States Army, as Central Fire Control Gunner.

Staff Sergeant WYATT E DUSENBURY, 36181546, Air Corps, United States Army, as Flight Engineer.

Sergeant ROBERT R SHUMARD, 20641486, Air Corps, United States Army, as Airplane Mechanic - Gunner.

Sergeant JOE A STIBORIK, 18190899, Air Corps, United States Army, as Radio Operator.

Private First Class RICHARD H NELSON, 39706799, Air Corps, United States Army, as Radar Operator.

SECTION II

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL--By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order No 9419, 4 February 1944 (Sec II Bull 3, WD, 1944), 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 Bronze Star Medal to the following named officers:

Major CLAUD D STANLEY, 0562114, Headquarters, Twentieth Air Force, Air Corps, United States Army, for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States from 24 May 1945 to 2 September 1945.

Captain JOHN M JOHANNES, 0163094, 73d Bombardment Wing, Air Corps, United States Army, for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy from 23 August 1944 to 15 August 1945.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL TWINING:

R K TAYLOR
Colonel, Air Corps
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

Gustav A Neuberg
GUSTAV A NEUBERG
Lt Col, AGD
Adjutant General

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