

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

GENERAL ORDERS)

NO. 74)

26 September 1945

SECTION V

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR--By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (Bull 43, WD, 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 enlisted man:

Sergeant WILLIAM D KINNINGER, 35297213, 770th Bombardment Squadron, 462nd Bombardment Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For gallantry in action while participating in aerial flight 7 June 1945. Sergeant KINNINGER was Tail Gunner of a B-29 aircraft in a bombing attack from a base in the Marianas Islands against Osaka, Japan. On the run into the target from the initial point, the formation was attacked by three enemy fighters, one of which succeeded in inflicting severe damage upon Sergeant KINNINGER'S airplane. One twenty millimeter shell exploded in the bombardier's position and another behind the navigator's position, wounding four crew members. One or more incendiary type bullets penetrated into the tail gunner's position and set fire to it. The intensity of the fire was increased because of a broken oxygen line until the entire compartment was ablaze. In the confined space of his tail position, Sergeant KINNINGER suffered severe first, second, and third degree burns over the entire area of his arms and legs and parts of his face. His right leg suffered puncture wounds from flying fragments of enemy machine gun bullets. In spite of his painful wounds, he acted gallantly and unhesitatingly to extinguish the fire. He opened the escape hatch and being unable to beat out the flames, he pulled the burning pieces off the wall with his bare hands and threw them overboard. With his hands already deeply burned, Sergeant KINNINGER cut and battered them in fighting the fire. An inspection later showed pieces of skin sticking to the sides of the compartment. Only after he had succeeded in jettisoning all the burning parts did he leave his position to be treated for his wounds. Two crew members extinguished the fire still smoldering in his parachute harness and administered first aid. Sergeant KINNINGER displayed outstanding gallantry in action in staying at his post to fight the spreading fire even though seriously injured and burned. His action undoubtedly saved both the crew and the airplane and reflect the highest credit on himself and the Army Air Forces.

SECTION VI

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 enlisted men:

Master Sergeant WILBERT O HAMILTON, 12077597, 878th Bombardment Squadron, 499th Bombardment Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States from 28 April 1945 to 15 August 1945.

26 September 1945

Master Sergeant LAVELIE L FRAZIER, 18018517, 878th Bombardment Squadron, 499th Bombardment Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States from 26 March 1945 to 8 August 1945.

Master Sergeant CLARENCE A BLACK, 16053196, 879th Bombardment Squadron, 499th Bombardment Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States from 14 December 1944 to 2 August 1945.

Master Sergeant ROBERT M YOUNG, 37427326, 877th Bombardment Squadron, 499th Bombardment Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States from 3 April 1945 to 9 August 1945.

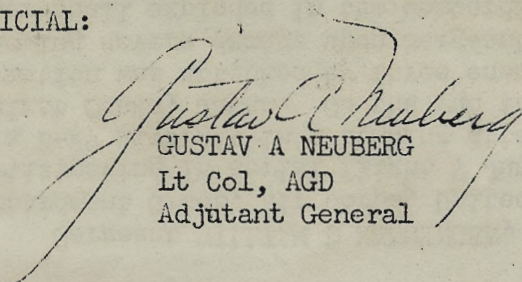
Staff Sergeant CHARLES W GILBERT, 14027094, 879th Bombardment Squadron, 499th Bombardment Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States from 9 March 1945 to 7 July 1945.

Master Sergeant WILBUR W ALLEN, 37228514, 877th Bombardment Squadron, 499th Bombardment Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States from 13 April 1945 to 15 August 1945.

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