

21 July 1943.

GENERAL ORDERS)
:)
NO.....186)

I. AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR:

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, August 8, 1932, the Silver Star is awarded by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces in the South Pacific Area, to the following:

VERNON L. OLSON, (20711314), Sergeant, Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action against the enemy on December 2, 1942, at Guadalcanal. During the battle at the Matanikau River, Sergeant Olson voluntarily crawled to within twenty yards of the Japanese front lines to help recover a fatally wounded corporal. All through his advance and return, he was under continuous enemy machine gun fire and had to make his way through dense jungle growth. He showed exceptional courage and stamina in successfully completing the hazardous mission. Home Address: 4007 West Walker Street, Seattle, Washington.

CLYDE W. DAVIS, (13017823), Private First Class, Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action against the enemy at Guadalcanal. On January 12, 1943, near Mount Austin, his squad was cut off from the rest of the platoon by Japanese machine gun fire. Disregarding his own personal safety, he moved closer to the enemy and by firing rapidly at point blank range forced them to take cover; thus permitting the withdrawal of the imperiled members of his squad, otherwise impossible. By his initiative and quick, decisive action, Private First Class Davis saved the lives of several soldiers and made it possible for them to rejoin their platoon. Again on January 17th, as scout of a patrol, he discovered a large well-fortified Japanese bivouac area. He crawled to within fifteen yards of it and then returned, with complete details, to his company commander. Leading a patrol back, he directed a successful attack in which fifteen to twenty of the enemy were killed. Home Address: Conway, North Carolina.

FLETCHER L. LOWE, (14035914), Private First Class, Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action against the enemy at Guadalcanal. On January 12, 1943, near Mount Austin, his squad was cut off from the rest of the platoon by Japanese machine gun fire. Disregarding his own personal safety, he moved closer to the enemy and by firing rapidly at point blank range forced them to take cover; thus permitting the withdrawal of the imperiled members of his squad, otherwise impossible. By his initiative and quick, decisive action, Private First Class Lowe saved the lives of several soldiers and made it possible for them to rejoin their platoon. Again on January 17th, as scout of a patrol, he discovered a large well-fortified Japanese bivouac area. He crawled to within fifteen yards of it and then returned, with complete details, to his company commander. Leading a patrol back, he directed a successful attack in which fifteen to twenty of the enemy were killed. Home Address: Warrior, Alabama.

LEO J. PEYTON, (20711251), Private, Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action against the enemy on December 2, 1942, at Guadalcanal. During the battle at the Matanikau River, Private Peyton voluntarily crawled to within twenty yards of the Japanese front lines to help recover a fatally wounded corporal. All through his advance and return, he was under continuous enemy machine gun fire and had to make his way through dense jungle growth. He showed exceptional courage and stamina in successfully completing the hazardous mission. Home Address: Valley City, North Dakota.

II. AWARD OF THE SOLDIER'S MEDAL:

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved July 2, 1926, (Bul. No. 8, W.D., 1926), the Soldier's Medal is awarded by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces in the South Pacific Area, to the following:

II. AWARD OF THE SOLDIER'S MEDAL (Cont'd.):

HENRY G. COPNER, (20604483), Private, Infantry, United States Army, for heroism at a base in the Solomon Islands on February 22, 1943. Enemy bombers had dropped several bombs on the ammunition and supply dumps on a naval construction battalion causing large fires, and exploding 20 mm and small arms ammunition. Private Copner, who was not a member of the battalion, left the safety of his quarters at a camp nearly a mile away and went to the site of the fire. For over two hours he assisted in fighting the fire at close quarters and was instrumental in curtailing its sphere and damage. His action was undertaken at great risk of bodily harm from exploding shells and flying shrapnel, and exposed him to almost certain death had the enemy returned to the objective and scene of the fire which was visible for miles. Home Address: 807 North Robinson Street, Danville, Illinois.

III. AWARD OF THE OAK LEAF CLUSTER (DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS):

By direction of the President, a bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, in lieu of an additional Distinguished Flying Cross, is awarded by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces in the South Pacific Area, to the following:

CECIL E. PETTY, (O-427654), Captain, United States Army Air Corps, for extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight from Guadalcanal on October 20, 1942. Piloting a C-47 airplane with 19 sick and wounded evacuees aboard, Captain Petty was forced to land, due to voltage regulator failure and fuel shortage, on a submerged coral reef 100 miles from his destination. Aware that his airplane had insufficient life rafts to provide for the wounded, and that unless secured his airplane would sink within a short time, he directed and assisted his crew in stripping the airplane of all steel cable and used it to anchor the airplane to the reef. He then had the stretcher litters adjusted so that they would be well above the water line, and with his crew members went to the outside top of the airplane's fuselage. There they stayed, day and night, for a period of eleven days, maintaining a vigilant watch for help, and using their emergency radio equipment whenever the weather permitted. At one time rain fell steadily for five days. On the ninth day their radio message was picked up and an airplane from their squadron came to their assistance, dropping food and water to them. Despite his weakened condition from constant exposure Captain Petty dived into the sea and swam to recover the rations so badly needed to sustain the lives of the evacuees and crew. Finally, on the eleventh day, a Navy destroyer arrived, and through the use of the rubber life rafts Captain Petty and his crew succeeded in getting all personnel safely on board. Home Address: Homer, Illinois.

IV. AWARD OF THE AIR MEDAL:

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9158, (Bul. No. 25, W.D., 1942), as amended by Executive Order No. 9242-a (Bul. No. 49, W.D., 1942), the Air Medal is awarded by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces in the South Pacific Area, to the following:

FEIDER W. CULLUM, (O-385386), Major, United States Army Air Corps, for meritorious achievement as the commander of a troop carrier squadron at an island base in the South Pacific Area since October 10, 1942. In addition to the administrative duties of command Major Cullum actively participated in the extremely hazardous missions of conveying supplies to combat troops at Guadalcanal and in evacuating casualties. The quality of his leadership was indicated at all times in the successful accomplishment of these missions, and by the high morale of his squadron which distinguished itself under his command in the performance of outstanding collective and individual deeds of courage and merit. Home Address: 4411 Vandelia Street, Dallas, Texas.

IV. AWARD OF THE AIR MEDAL (Cont'd.):

WILLIAM R. FITZGERALD, (O-789551), First Lieutenant, United States Army Air Corps, co-pilot. Home Address: Malesus, Tennessee.

J. F. DOLNEY, (6915169), Technical Sergeant, United States Army Air Corps. Home Address: 1431 W. Vine Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

LARRY F. INGALLS, (16004680), Corporal, United States Army Air Corps. Home Address: 3605 Forest Avenue, Brookfield, Illinois.

The citation for each individual is as follows:

For meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights in the South Pacific Area on May 1, and May 16, 1943. As a member of the crew of a C-47 airplane he sighted and made possible, on the aforesaid dates, the rescue of survivors of two torpedoed vessels, by radioing for assistance and dropping emergency rations and life vests to the men below. The sinking and approximate position of the first vessel was known, but first knowledge of the sinking of the second ship was the sighting of the life rafts by this crew. On both occasions the crew of the airplane remained over the scene until the summoned help arrived.

JOHN B. MUELLER, (16022587), Staff Sergeant, United States Army Air Corps, assistant engineer, for meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial flight over the Solomon Islands on December 16, 1942. As a combat crew member of an airplane in a formation of five B-17's he assisted in the bombing of enemy ground installations with such exceptional accuracy that all bombs fell in the designated area. Immediately after the strike approximately sixteen enemy land based fighters attacked the formation and on the first pass an engine of the number three wingman's airplane was disabled. This formation at great jeopardy to their own safety afforded all possible protection to the disabled airplane and by skillful combat maneuvering prevented its complete destruction and loss, and succeeded in shooting down four enemy aircraft. Home Address: Woodruff, Wisconsin.

V. AWARD OF THE OAK LEAF CLUSTER (AIR MEDAL):

By direction of the President, a bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, in lieu of an additional Air Medal, is awarded by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces in the South Pacific Area, to each of the following:

BENJAMIN C. BREWER, (O-789665), First Lieutenant, United States Army Air Corps, pilot, for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights in the South Pacific Area on May 1, and May 16, 1943. As a member of the crew of a C-47 airplane he sighted and made possible, on the aforesaid dates, the rescue of survivors of two torpedoed vessels, by radioing for assistance and dropping emergency rations and life vests to the men below. The sinking and approximate position of the first vessel was known, but first knowledge of the sinking of the second ship was the sighting of the life rafts by this crew. On both occasions the crew of the airplane remained over the scene until the summoned help arrived. Home Address: 610 Felder Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama.

JOHN C. WASHBURN, (O-790107), First Lieutenant, United States Army Air Corps, navigator. Home Address: 608 Arbor Vitae Road, Winnetka, Illinois.

JACK D. ALEXANDER, (O-2042749), Second Lieutenant, United States Army Air Corps, co-pilot. Home Address: 3720 South G Street, Tacoma, Washington.

GORDON L. BALDRY, (O-2042750), Second Lieutenant, United States Army Air Corps, pilot. Home Address: Groton, South Dakota.

BURTON E. HECKERSON, (17024995), Staff Sergeant, United States Army Air Corps. Home Address: Shakespee, Minnesota.

JOHN W. WATKINS, (15057609), Staff Sergeant, United States Army Air Corps. Home Address: Winchester, Ohio.

V. AWARD OF THE OAK LEAF CLUSTER (AIR MEDAL) Cont'd.:

The citation for each individual is as follows:

For meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights over Guadalcanal on October 30 and November 1, 1942. On separate missions, on the aforesaid dates, as a member of a crew of a C-47 airplane he assisted in dropping needed ammunition and food supplies to isolated United States Marine Raider units on Guadalcanal. This assistance enabled these units to carry out their assignment and saved them from probable annihilation. Both missions by this crew were carried out without fighter protection, under extremely hazardous weather conditions, and while subject to enemy gun fire.

HARRY W. WISE, (O-727934), First Lieutenant, United States Army Air Corps, co-pilot. Home Address: Flossmoor, Illinois.

CLAUDE B. PHILLIPS, (6924489), Master Sergeant, United States Army Air Corps, bombardier. Home Address: Oneida, Tennessee.

HARLEY S. BAIRD, (6149125), Staff Sergeant, United States Army Air Corps, radio operator. Home Address: Madison, Maine.

ROBERT B. WILLIAMS, (6293270), Staff Sergeant, United States Army Air Corps, gunner. Home Address: Chandler, Texas.

The citation for each individual is as follows:

For meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial flight over the Solomon Islands on December 16, 1942. As a combat crew member on an airplane in a formation of five B-17's he assisted in the bombing of enemy ground installations with such exceptional accuracy that all bombs fell in the designated area. Immediately after the strike, approximately sixteen enemy land based fighters attacked the formation and on the first pass an engine of the number three wingman's airplane was disabled. This formation at great jeopardy to their own safety afforded all possible protection to the disabled airplane and by skillful combat maneuvering prevented its complete destruction and loss, and succeeded in shooting down four enemy aircraft.

ROY E. MEURET, (34051337), Staff Sergeant, United States Army Air Corps, crew chief. Home Address: 2908 Decatur Street, Tampa, Florida.

LARRY F. INGALLS, (16004680), Corporal, United States Army Air Corps. Home Address: 3605 Forest Avenue, Brockfield, Illinois.

The citation for each individual is as follows:

For meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial flight from Guadalcanal on October 20, 1942. As a member of a crew of a C-47 airplane with 19 sick and wounded evacuees aboard he assisted in a highly skillful and successful forced landing on a coral reef 100 miles from his destination. He then aided in the care of the evacuees for eleven days while constantly exposed to the hazards of the open, turbulent sea and inclement weather. Finally, when a Navy destroyer arrived to rescue the marooned party, he assisted in the dangerous and arduous task of conveying all the sick and wounded personnel from the damaged airplane by means of rubber life boats to safety aboard ship.

By Command of Lieutenant General HARMON:

A. J. BARNETT,
Brigadier General, GSC,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

William A. Lord, Jr.
WILLIAM A. LORD, JR.,
Lt. Col., Inf.,
Actg. Asst. Adj. Gen.

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