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

GENERAL ORDERS)
NO 107)

15 November 1945

SECTION III

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 man of the 421st Bombardment Squadron, 504th Bombardment Group:

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight 10 July 1945 from a base in the Marianas Islands. These individuals were crew members of a B-29 aircraft which took part in a highly successful night incendiary raid against the city of Wakayama, Japan. As they left the initial point, number four engine began cutting out and power had to be increased on the other three engines to maintain the bombing airspeed. Approaching the target, a great column of smoke reaching over 20,000 feet obscured the city and caused dangerous thermals. They chose to hold their course and flew through the severest part of the smoke column in order to drop their bombs on the briefed aiming point. Entering the thermal, violent up-drafts and down-drafts were encountered, throwing the plane into steep banks and making it impossible to hold a constant altitude. The air was so turbulent that when bombs were released they did not fall at once and some bounced around the bomb bays, hanging up momentarily. After bombs away, they began their withdrawal, encountering two night fighters but evading them successfully. On return to their home base, the left main landing gear would not extend. Circling the field, with fuel very low, they finally extended the landing gear on the emergency system and made a successful landing. The skill and bravery displayed by these veterans of many missions over the Japanese homeland reflects great credit on themselves and the Army Air Forces.

Captain ROLAND C CASTENSON, 0664970, Air Corps, United States Army, as Airplane Commander.

Master Sergeant EARNEST R SNIDER, 18019423, Air Corps, United States Army, as Flight Engineer.

SECTION IV

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 60th Bombardment Squadron, 39th Bombardment Group:

S# 4199-1/2

15 November 1945

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on 26 June 1945. These individuals were combat crew members of a B-29 aircraft based in the Marianas Islands leading an entire bombardment group in an attack on the Nippon vehicle company at Nagoya, Japan. Despite vicious fighter attacks, concentrations of flak, and adverse weather, they bombed the target with devastating results. In the target area, severe damage was inflicted on their plane by enemy flak. Six feet of one wing was shot away, bomb bay doors were sprung open and partially torn off, and radio communication seriously impaired. In spite of the perilous condition of the aircraft, these flyers established limited communication with another B-29 and, by an outstanding display of air discipline and professional skill, reached a rescue vessel at sea and parachuted to safety. The courage and superior airmanship demonstrated on this occasion by these veterans of repeated assaults against the Japanese homeland reflect great credit on themselves and the Army Air Forces.

Flight Officer (then Staff Sergeant) GEORGE L MANTAK, 31378461, Air Corps, United States Army, as Flight Engineer.

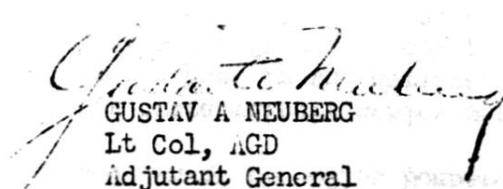
Staff Sergeant (then Sergeant) RICHARD E VANDEN HUEVAL, 16161691, Air Corps, United States Army, as Tail Gunner.

Sergeant GERALD E CARROLL, 12241184, Air Corps, United States Army, as Left Blister Gunner.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL PARKER:

R K TAYLOR
Brigadier General, USA
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:


GUSTAV A NEUBERG
Lt Col, AGD
Adjutant General

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