

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
NINTH AIR FORCE

AFO #696, U.S. Army,
30 June 1944.

Exhibit # 40.

GENERAL ORDERS)
:
NUMBER.....170)

E X T R A C T

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SECTION VIII: AWARDS TO THE 416TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)

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SECTION VIII

1. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (Bull. 13, W.D., 1918), and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department, the following-named officer is awarded the SILVER STAR DECORATION:

MURDOCH W. CAMPBELL, O-397425, Major, 669th Bombardment Squadron (L), 416th Bombardment Group (L). For gallantry in action against the enemy while leading a formation of A-20 type aircraft dispatched against heavily-defended enemy installations on 6 June 1944. Shortly before reaching the target, heavy anti-aircraft fire struck Major CAMPBELL'S aircraft, damaging one engine, causing it to burst into flames. Disregarding the damage, Major CAMPBELL held straight to his course, calmly and surely leading his formation over the target which was bombed with great effectiveness. The heroic conduct displayed by Major CAMPBELL in leading his formation over the target in spite of the fact that his aircraft was severely damaged and in flames, insured the destruction of a vital military objective, and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces. Major CAMPBELL is missing in action. Next of Kin: Mrs. Elizabeth G. Campbell (Mother), Chicago, Illinois.

2. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926 (Bull. 8, W.D., 1926), and in accordance with authority delegated by the War Department, a DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS is awarded to the following-named officers:

WILLIAM J. MENG, O-397582, Major, 670th Bombardment Squadron, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For outstanding achievement in aerial flight against the enemy while leading a formation of A-20 type aircraft participating in an attack upon a heavily defended objective in occupied Europe on 6 June 1944. The aircraft piloted by Major MENG was struck by anti-aircraft fire shortly before reaching the target area, causing extensive damage throughout the fuselage and incapacitating one of his engines, causing it to burst into flames. Intent only upon leading his formation to a successful completion of its mission, Major MENG, demonstrating extraordinary determination and exceptional flying skill, held straight to his course, effectively bombing the target. By his outstanding leadership and aerial proficiency on this occasion, he brought great credit both to himself and to his organization. Entered military service from North Middletown, Kentucky.

CHARLES C. MISH, O-753399, Second Lieutenant, 668th Bombardment Squadron, 416th Bombardment Group (L). For heroism and extraordinary achievement while piloting an A-20 type aircraft participating in an attack upon a strongly defended enemy objective on 6 June 1944. When anti-aircraft fire had shot one engine of his aircraft out of commission and set it afire, Lieutenant MISH held tenaciously to his course and, by exercising unusual flying skill, remained in formation to bomb the target effectively. Thereupon, although the landing gear was useless, the rudder and elevator controls defective, and the bomb-bay doors still open, he made his way, at an altitude of one hundred feet, successfully back to friendly territory, where he succeeded in crash-landing his badly damaged plane without serious damage to the crew. The skill, determination and devotion to duty by Lieutenant MISH on this occasion reflect high credit both to himself and to the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Laurenceville, Virginia.

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