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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

A.P.O. 500,  
August 28, 1942.

GENERAL ORDERS )

NO.....26 )

Awards of the Distinguished Service Cross..... Section I  
Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross..... Section II

I. AWARDS OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved July 9, 1918 (Bul. No. 43, W.D., 1918), the Distinguished Service Cross is awarded by the Commander-in-Chief, Southwest Pacific Area, to the following named officers:

GEORGE E. KISER, (0401180), Captain (then First Lieutenant), 49th Pursuit Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action near Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia on April 27, 1942. While commanding a flight of four fighters Captain Kiser intercepted an enemy formation of twenty-four bombers. He immediately engaged the bombers and at almost the same time was attacked from the rear by twelve enemy fighters. Disregarding the enemy fighters, he continued his attack on the bombers, disrupting the formation, and succeeded in personally destroying two. He then engaged the enemy fighters in combat, succeeded in destroying one, and then landed his flight intact. Captain Kiser's coolness under fire, calm leadership of his flight, and his personal daring and bravery were responsible for the successful execution of the mission.

Home Address: Albert Kiser (Father), 411 South Main Street,  
Somerset, Kentucky.

WALTER B. PUTNAM, (022508), Captain, 24th Pursuit Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action near Cebu, Cebu, Philippine Islands on April 10, 1942. While engaged in a reconnaissance flight in the vicinity of Cebu, Cebu, Philippine Islands, Captain Putnam located an enemy convoy about to make a landing. Although he knew that friendly air support was not available, he unhesitatingly attacked the ships and landing parties with his machine guns. When attacked by two enemy aircraft he engaged them in combat, destroying one and forcing the other to retire, and again attacked the convoy until his ammunition was exhausted. Returning to Iloilo, Panay, Philippine Islands, he reserved and re-armed his airplane and made another attack on the enemy vessels, in spite of heavy antiaircraft fire. By his prompt and daring attacks against superior, armed forces he inflicted heavy damage on hostile vessels and disrupted the enemy landing.

Home Address: Geneva Furriss Putnam (Wife), 2118 NW 16th Street,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

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II. AWARDS OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved July 2, 1926 (Bul. 8, W.D., 1926), the Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded by the Commander-in-Chief, Southwest Pacific Area, to the following named officers:

*I was Randolph & Thorne that I picked-up (see below)*

JOHN BROWNWELL, (0373805), First Lieutenant, 17th Pursuit Squadron, 24th Pursuit Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight between Binalbagan, Negros, and Mindanao, Philippine Islands, on April 21, 1942. When the necessity arose to evacuate Army personnel, Lieutenant Brownwell flew from Mindanao to Negros in a pursuit airplane. He there loaded his passengers in the baggage compartment, and despite the overload and unbalanced condition of the aircraft, succeeded in flying them safely through an area of considerable enemy activity to Mindanao.

Home Address: Elizabeth B. Brownwell (Wife), 1112 E. 17th Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

HENRY G. THORNE, (021527), Captain, 3rd Pursuit Squadron, 24th Pursuit Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight between Bataan, Luzon, Philippine Islands, and Iloilo, Panay, Philippine Islands, on April 8, 1942. Receiving orders to evacuate personnel and government property, Captain Thorne, although he was suffering from malaria, loaded his passengers in the baggage compartment of a pursuit airplane and took off at night through enemy machine gun fire which was sweeping the airdrome. After bombing enemy positions in the vicinity, he proceeded, without navigational aids or night flying equipment, with a greatly overloaded pursuit airplane through three hundred miles of enemy territory and safely brought his plane and passengers to their destination.

Home Address: Mrs. Henry G. Thorne (Wife), Washington, District of Columbia.

JOHN P. RANDOLPH, (0369707), Captain, 24th Pursuit Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight in the Philippine Islands, on April 11 and 12, 1942. Flying a condemned and unarmed commercial airplane, at night without navigational aids and with a landing necessary for fuel enroute at an airfield possibly in enemy hands, Captain Randolph successfully completed a flight from Mindanao to Corregidor, landing at his destination without lights. His airplane having been damaged in landing, due to the condition of the field, he spent the ensuing day repairing the plane which was parked in an open field and subjected to continuous enemy artillery fire. Upon completing temporary repairs, he evacuated Army personnel and important military documents to Iloilo, Panay.

Home Address: Nancy Randolph (Wife), Schertz, Texas.

RAYMOND M. GEHRIG, (0388660), First Lieutenant, 3rd Pursuit Squadron, 24th Pursuit Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight in the Philippine Islands, on April 11 and 12, 1942. Flying a condemned and unarmed commercial airplane, at night without navigational aids and with a landing necessary for fuel enroute at an airfield possibly in enemy hands, Lieutenant Gehrig successfully completed a flight from Mindanao to Corregidor, landing at his destination without lights. His airplane having been damaged in landing, due to the condition of the field, he spent the ensuing day repairing the plane which was parked in an open field and subjected to continuous enemy artillery fire. Upon completing temporary repairs, he evacuated Army personnel and important military documents to Iloilo, Panay.

Home Address: Mrs. R. B. Gehrig (Mother), Cohocton, New York.

CHARLES R. SNEED, (0373918), Captain, 20th Pursuit Squadron, 24th Pursuit Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight between Kindley Field, Corregidor, Philippine Islands, and Iloilo, Panay, Philippine Islands, on April 9, 1942. Proceeding from Kindley Field with passengers and government records in the only available aircraft, a primary trainer, without sufficient gasoline to reach his destination, and without maps or aids to navigation, he flew at night towards Mindanao, Philippine Islands, over territory held by the enemy. Exhausting the gasoline supply, he was forced to land on a beach in Northern Palawan which was occupied by the enemy. He procured gasoline from natives, serviced the aircraft, and with the assistance of other natives, constructed a run-way of palm leaves on the beach. He succeeded in continuing his flight until again forced down, due to insufficient gasoline and bad weather, on the beach at Guimaras Island. The following day he proceeded to Iloilo, Panay, from which point he and his passengers were ferried to their final destination.

PERRY L. FRANKS, (0380673), First Lieutenant, 24th Pursuit Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight between Kindley Field, Corregidor, Philippine Islands, and Iloilo, Panay, Philippine Islands, on April 9, 1942. Proceeding from Kindley Field in the only available aircraft, a primary trainer, without sufficient gasoline to reach his destination, and without maps or any aids to navigation, he flew towards Mindanao, Philippine Islands, over enemy territory at night. Exhausting the gasoline supply, he was forced to land on a beach in Northern Palawan which was occupied by the enemy. He procured gasoline from the natives, serviced the aircraft, and with the assistance of other natives, constructed a run-way of palm leaves on the beach. He succeeded in continuing his flight until again forced down, due to insufficient gasoline and bad weather, at Guimaras Island, Panay, Philippine Islands. The following day he proceeded to Iloilo, Panay, Philippine Islands, and from there, he and his passengers were ferried to their final destination.

WILLIAM J. CUMMINGS, (0369651), Captain, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 24th Pursuit Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flights between Bataan, Luzon, Philippine Islands, and Del Monte, Mindanao, Philippine Islands, during the period March 10, 1942 to April 7, 1942. Captain Cummings made several round trips in an obsolete, unarmed, commercial airplane, evacuating personnel and delivering badly needed supplies and medicine. These flights were made at night under adverse weather conditions, with no navigational aids, and over territory in possession of the enemy and dominated by heavy enemy air patrols.

Home Address: W. J. Cummings (Father), 2225 Barker Street,  
Lawrence, Kansas.

JACK E. CALDWELL, (020743), Captain, 5th Interceptor Command, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flights between Bataan, Luzon, Philippine Islands, and Del Monte, Mindanao, Philippine Islands, during the period March 10, 1942 to April 7, 1942. Captain Caldwell made several round trips in an obsolete, unarmed, commercial airplane, evacuating personnel and delivering badly needed supplies and medicine. These flights were made at night under adverse weather conditions, with no navigational aids, and over territory in possession of the enemy and dominated by heavy enemy air patrols.

Home Address: Mrs. James R. Caldwell (Mother), Searcy, Arkansas.

WILLIAM E. STRATHERN, (0383748), First Lieutenant, 24th Pursuit Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flights between Bataan, Luzon, Philippine Islands, and Del Monte, Mindanao, Philippine Islands, during the period March 10, 1942 to April 7, 1942. First Lieutenant Strathern made several round trips in an obsolete, unarmed, commercial airplane, evacuating personnel and delivering badly needed supplies and medicine. These flights were made at night under adverse weather conditions, with no navigational aids, and over territory in possession of the enemy and dominated by heavy enemy air patrols. On his last flight, his aircraft was completely destroyed by enemy aerial attack.

Home Address: Landonia Richards Strathern (Wife), Gilbert,  
Minnesota.

JOSEPH H. MOORE, (022527), Captain, 24th Pursuit Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flights between Bataan, Luzon, Philippine Islands, and Del Monte, Mindanao, Philippine Islands, during the period March 10, 1942, to April 7, 1942. Captain Moore made several round trips in an obsolete, unarmed, Navy amphibian airplane, which had been condemned, evacuating personnel and delivering badly needed supplies and medicine. These flights were made at night under adverse weather conditions, with no navigational aids, and over territory in possession of the enemy and dominated by heavy enemy air patrols.

Home Address: Mrs. J. H. Moore (Wife), 464 Hampton Drive,  
Spartanburg, South Carolina.

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(GO No. 26, GHQ SWPA, Cont'd)

By command of General MacARTHUR:

R. K. SUTHERLAND,  
Major General, General Staff Corps,  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:



B. M. FITCH,  
Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,  
Adjutant General.