

Silver Star Medal in World War II

Criteria and Policy Guidance



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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Background	3
Criteria	3
Medal Description	3
Ribbon Description	3
Authorized Device	3
Foreword	4
United States Theater	5
War Department	5
Headquarters, Army Air Forces	10
European Theater	11
Headquarters, European Theater of Operations	11
United States Strategic Air Forces in Europe	17
Eighth Air Force	17
VIII Bomber Command	24
2d Bombardment (later Air) Division	26
2d Combat Bombardment Wing	31
3d Bombardment (later Air) Division	36
4 th Bombardment Wing	39
VIII Fighter Command	41
VIII Air Force Service Command	41
VIII Air Support Command	45
Ninth Air Force	51
Mediterranean Theater	53
Northwest African Air Forces	58
Twelfth Air Force	59
Fifteenth Air Force	62
XV Fighter Command	62
China-Burma-India Theater	63
Army Air Forces, India-Burma Sector	63
Tenth Air Force	66
Pacific Theater	68
Headquarters Army Air Forces Pacific Ocean Areas (AAFPOA)	68
United States Air Forces in the Far East (USAFFE)	70
Twentieth Air Force	75
XX Bomber Command	75
Awards to Royal Air Force Personnel	79

Background

The Silver Star medal had its beginning during World War I. An Act of Congress of July 9, 1918, authorized the wearing by Army personnel of a small silver star, three-sixteenths of an inch in diameter, upon the service ribbon of a campaign medal, to indicate "a citation for gallantry in action, published in orders issued from headquarters of a general officer, not warranting the award of a Medal of Honor or Distinguished Service Cross." Known in the Army as the "citation star," the award was made retroactive, so that all those cited for gallantry in action in previous campaigns, even as far back as the Spanish-American War, were eligible to wear it.

Criteria

It is estimated that more than 20,000 members of the Army received such citations before 1918. A similar device was authorized for Navy and Marine Corps personnel in 1920 which authorized a "special letter of commendation" to be awarded on the recommendation of the Board of Naval Award. Receipt of this special letter of commendation authorized its recipient to wear a small silver star on the ribbon of the Victory Medal.

The Silver Star is currently awarded by all branches of the armed forces to any person who, while serving in any capacity, is cited for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force, or while serving with friendly forces against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

The Army announced that anyone who had previously earned a Citation Star could apply for the Silver Star medal. Navy and Marine Corps personnel could only apply, if they were awarded a citations star by the Army. The status of the Silver Star was further clarified, when on Aug. 7, 1942, Congress authorized the award of the Silver Star to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the Navy since Dec. 6, 1941, distinguished himself by gallantry and intrepidity in action, but not of a nature to justify the award of the Navy Cross. Four months later, on Dec. 15, 1942, the decoration was extended to Army personnel for gallantry in action, but not of a degree to justify an award of the Distinguished Service Cross.

Medal Description

On Aug. 8, 1932, the Silver Star was re-designed as a medal by an Act of Congress. This medal, designed by the firm of Bailey, Banks and Biddle, is a gilt-toned star of five points. On the obverse side in the center, is a small silver star, (the same size as the original citation star) centered within a wreath of laurel. Eighteen rays radiate from the star to the wreath. The reverse of the star has the inscription, "For Gallantry in Action" in raised letters, below which is a blank area suitable for engraving the recipient's name.

Ribbon Description

The ribbon, one of the most striking of all American awards has a wide center stripe of red flanked on either side by a wide stripe of dark blue, a wide stripe of white, a thin stripe of white and a narrow stripe of dark blue at the edges.

Authorized device: Oak leaf cluster

Foreword

Like many of the awards of the Second World War, the participants often felt that the criteria for the Silver Star Medal varied from one theater of war to another, or even from one air force to another, and that was unfair. In Air Room Interviews, conducted by intelligence personnel across the United States, of combat returnees, Technical Sergeant Dwight T. Newland, a radio gunner of the 17th Bomb Group, a B-26 unit, summed it up well:¹

Criticisms in our group and, in fact, throughout the 12th and 15th Air Forces, have been caustic because of a lack of uniformity in the handing out of decorations and citations. Especially it is true after men of these Air Forces arrived back in the United States and observed combat crew of the 8th and 9th, based in the English Theater, resplendent in decorations which our men have not received. In the beginning the policy was uniform and decorations were given when warranted, but now the situation seems to have changed in favor of the Air Forces, operating out of England. The men of the 12th and 15th felt that they have completed as many, and in some cases double the amount of missions, as men of the other Air Forces and believe that they warrant the same consideration when awards are made. Lack of uniformity service only to deflate the moral of these men who are obviously being forgotten!

Meanwhile, on the other side of the globe, the squadron commander of the 2nd Troop Carrier Squadron, 443rd Troop Carrier Group, Tenth Air Force, Major Ben F. Beauman, a C-47 pilot, complained about the lack of recognition in the China-Burma-India Theater of war and the Air Room Interviewer noted that:²

The returnee recommends that the Silver Star be awarded to troop carrier pilots completing 1,000 combat hours in the CBI. He points out that under the present system of awards a DFC is awarded for 300 hours, with an additional cluster, up to a total of three clusters, for each successive 300 hours. Thus, a pilot is required to fly 1,500 hours to obtain a Silver Star which would be awarded in lieu of a fourth cluster to the DFC. The returnee states that a tour of 1,500 hours is an almost superhuman achievement and that completion of 1,000 hours is extremely rare and accomplished only by a few of the best and steadiest pilots. He states that during the last two years his squadron, consisting of sixteen aircraft, was lost approximately twice over as a result of enemy action, weather, aircraft malfunctions, and other causes. Under these circumstances, and since it takes more than a year for a pilot to complete 1,000 hours if he is able to do so at all, it is felt that this achievement warrants the award of a Silver Star.

As can be seen from the above, the purpose of the Silver Star was misunderstood as a sortie completion medal, instead of a combat award. In an effort to clear up such misperceptions, the following is offered to enlighten readers as to what the criteria and the policy guidance concerning the Silver Star Medal were during those tumultuous years. Starting with the War Department in Washington, District of Columbia, and proceeding to each theater around the world, the policy of the Silver Star Medal is examined in the following pages.

¹ Air Room Interview, TSgt Dwight T. Newland, 95th Bomb Squadron, 17th Bomb Group, 18 July 1944, AFHRA Call Number 142.053A-18, Jul 1944-May 1945, IRIS Number 115951.

² Air Room Interview, Major Ben F. Beauman, 2nd Troop Carrier Squadron, 443rd Troop Carrier Group, 16 May 1945, AFHRA Call Number 142.053A-18, Jul 1944-May 1945, IRIS Number 115951.

United States Theater

War Department

10 August 1938: Army Regulation 600-45, as amended by Change 2, August 10 1938, Paragraph 3, Announcement of Awards:³

3. How awards published.

a. Other than the Silver Star and the Purple Heart (rest is omitted from this extract).

b. Silver Star. Citations of persons for gallantry in action are published in orders issued from the headquarters of a United States force commanded by or which is the appropriate command of, a general officer, or issued by the War Department.

4. Presentation of Awards.

a. Medal of Honor (Omitted as not Silver Star Medal relevant).

b. Decorations other than the Medal of Honor.

(1) The presentation of the decoration to the person to whom awarded will be made with formal and impressive ceremony including when practicable, the attendance of troops.

(2) In the absence of order to the contrary, the arrangements therefore, and the presentation, will be made by the division or higher Commander, it being the policy of the War Department not to request the President to present decorations other than the Medal of Honor, except under unusual circumstances.

25 September 1942: War Department Letter from the Adjutant General, subject: Suggested Guide for the Uniform Award of Decorations to Personnel of the Army Air Forces, 25 September 1942:⁴

The Silver Star is awarded to any person cited for gallantry in action, which citation does not warrant the award of the Medal of Honor or the D.S.C. [Distinguished Service Cross].

Recommendations for Awards and Decorations To be Submitted Through Military Channels.

- (a) Name _____
- (b) Present Rank and Organization _____
- (c) Present Serial Number _____
- (d) Grade and serial number at time of act for which award is recommended _____
- (e) Name and address of nearest relative _____
- (f) Address at time of appointment _____
- (g) Place of enlistment _____
- (h) Awards previously made _____
- (i) Award recommended _____
- (j) By Commanding Officer of _____
- (k) Approved by _____

³ Extracted as a quote of the basic regulation in Policy File, Eighth Air Force Decorations & Awards, Policy & Procedure, AFHRA Call Number 519.287, 1942-1943, IRIS Number 215465.

⁴ Quoted in whole in Policy File, Eighth Air Force Decorations & Awards, Policy & Procedure, AFHRA Call Number 519.287, 1942-1943, IRIS Number 215465.

- (l) Date of act for which award is recommended _____
- (m) Location of act or mission for which award is recommended _____
- (n) Aerial or Ground Mission _____
- (o) Furnish information that is applicable in this case:
 - (1) Nature of Mission _____
 - (2) Type of Aircraft _____
 - (3) Objective _____
 - (4) Mission Accomplished _____
 - (5) Elevation _____
 - (6) Injuries to personnel and/or aircraft _____
- (7) Was act for which Award is recommended before or after injuries were received?

- (8) Others recommended for same act or mission _____
- (9) Did act result in
 - (1) Saving lives of others? _____
 - (2) Accomplishing vital missions? _____
 - (3) Safety of Aircraft? _____
- (10) Was danger from hostile aircraft or ground fire? _____
- (11) Damage accomplished:
 - (1) To hostile aircraft _____
 - (2) To ground installations _____
 - (3) To hostile personnel _____
- (12) Danger Involved _____
- (13) Difficulties involved _____
- (14) Was deed in line of duty or beyond all call of duty? _____
- (15) Has the entire service of this person since the rendition by him of the service upon which the recommendation is based, been honorable? _____
- (p) Short summary of act involved with particular reference to courage, skill or ability displayed. _____

(Name)

(Rank)

(Signature of officer who has personal knowledge of the truth of above statements or was an eye witness.)

If officer signing recommendation does not have personal knowledge of the act or was not an eye witness, signed affidavits by two eye witnesses must accompany all recommendations.

22 September 1943: Army Regulation 600-45

ARMY REGULATIONS
No. 600-45

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington 25, D.C., 22 September 1943.

PERSONNEL
DECORATIONS

[NOTE: This superseded AR 600-45, 8 August 1932, including Change 2, 10 August 1938; Change 3, 18 August 1942; Change 4, 4 September 1942; Change 5, 14 October 1942; Change 6, 28 October 1942; Circular No. 391, War Department 1942; and Section IV, Circular No. 131, War Department, 1943.]

Section		Paragraphs
	I. General	1-7
	II. Awards by the War Department	8-27
	III. Medal for Merit	28-31
	IV. Awards by foreign governments	32-35

[NOTE: Only relevant information concerning the Silver Star is shown in this extract.]

2. War Department decorations. In order of precedence, except that the Oak-Leaf Cluster is issued in lieu of an additional medal, and its precedence is that of the medal it represents.

e. Silver Star

Section II
Awards by the War Department

	Paragraph
Silver Star	13

13. Silver Star. a. The Silver Star is awarded to persons who, while serving *in any capacity with the Army*, distinguish themselves by gallantry in action not warranting the award of a Medal of Honor or Distinguished-Service Cross. *See act 15 December 1942 (56 Stat. 1052; 10 U.S.C. 1412; M.L. 1939, Sup. II, sec. 908).*

b. Those individuals who, prior to 7 December 1941, have been cited for gallantry in action in orders issued by the headquarters of a force commanded by a general officer, which citations do not warrant the award of the Medal of Honor or Distinguished-Service Cross, may make application for the Silver Star Medal to The Adjutant General, W.D., A.G.O. Form No. 0714 (Application for Service Medal), being used for this purpose.

22 December 1943: War Department Decorations Chart, December 1943:⁵

A chart designed to assist in readily determining the major details and requirements of the award and presentation of a current army decoration. (This chart should not be used as a sole guide. It is intended to simplify and augment AR-600-45, AR-600-68 and War Department Circular 333, 22 December 1943, which should be referred to for details. This Chart is in accordance with instructions issued by the War Department but it is not an official War Department publication.)

NOTE: Always refer to AR 600-45 for details.

Silver Star:

Eligible Persons: Persons serving in any capacity with the Army.

Requirements: Gallantry in action not warranting the award of the Medal of Honor or the Distinguished Service Cross.

⁵ Chart, War Department Decorations, 22 December 1943, reproduced by the Army Air Forces Pacific Ocean Area's Production Branch, AFHRA Call Number 187.1X, Dec 1943, IRIS Number 135247.

By Whom Awarded (see Note 1):

- A. Commanding General, United States Armed Force in a theater of operations.
- B. Commanding General (under War Department) of:
 - 1. An army or air force
 - 2. A group of armies
 - 3. A defense command in Alaska or outside continental United States
 - 4. Any separate force commanded by a major general or officer of higher grade
- C. Unless specifically prohibited, may be delegated to subordinate commanders of any force or command which is commanded by, or the appropriate command of a major general or higher.

How Presented: With ceremony with troops if practicable.

Posthumously to Next of Kin?: Yes, with ceremony and troops if next of kin desires.

Additional Pay: None

Personnel Restrictions:

- A. Awards to foreigners permitted if:
 - I. Immediate combat awards:
 - (1) If recipient is below grade of colonel or its equivalent.
 - (2) If prior approval of recipients senior field commander present is obtained.
 - (3) Provided such field commander is of grade equal to or higher than a brigadier general.
 - II. Other recommendations will be forwarded to War Department for final action. Awards to personnel of grade of colonel or higher require Presidential approval.
- B. Awards to Civilians:

Commanding Generals, United States Army Forces in theaters of operations may award to Merchant Marine men under their jurisdiction—otherwise civilian awards must have prior Presidential approval.
- C. Service subsequent to time of distinction must be honorable.

NOTE 1: General Provisions Awards of decorations are made by the War Department or by designated commanders, acting for the President. Authority granted to any commander –(other than Purple Heart) authorizes him to make awards only to individuals permanently assigned to that command except Immediate combat awards may be made for acts performed by individuals physically present within that command under competent orders. Such commanders are also authorized to take final action on recommendations for acts or services performed while individuals or units were permanently assigned to that command but subsequently transferred or separated therefrom. In any case where the commander is not authorized to make an award, recommendations will be forwarded to the War Department.

NOTE: The following information is vitally important and should be studied carefully before originating action for the award of a decoration and followed scrupulously in the subsequent processing of the award:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a. Character.

(1) Recommendations for the award of decorations may be initiated by any officer. Recommendations must be based upon the statement of an eyewitness, preferably the recipient's immediate commander, and must contain a complete, yet concise, description of the services rendered in such detail that the appropriate commander or the War Department may determine whether the service was, in fact, sufficient to meet the requirements for the award. Particular attention should be given to the data supporting a recommendation and not the preparation of the citation;

(2) Written testimony will be in the form of certificates or affidavits;

(3) Each basic recommendation for the award of a decoration will show the exact status of the person who is being recommended at time of rendition by him of the service upon which the recommendation is based;

(4) In recommendations based upon service which covered an appreciable period of time, information will be included as to the exact period thereof;

(5) In recommendations for combat decorations, specific information should be included, as nearly as is reasonably possible, regarding each of the following (using operations maps, narrative statement, or any other convenient form):

(a) Character of the terrain, of hostile observation, and of enemy fire.

(b) Visibility, time of day, and atmospheric conditions.

(c) Location of enemy.

(d) Morale, that of our forces and that of the enemy.

(e) Casualties sustained.

(f) Effects or results of deed in question, etc.

(6) In addition to complying with other requirements, a recommendation for the award of a Distinguished-Service Medal or Legion of Merit will contain a complete description of the service rendered in such detail, to include dates, that it may be determined whether the service rendered was in fact of such a character as to meet the requirements of the law as to responsibility and merit;

(7) When a recommendation is supported by an official record, that fact will be stated, and there will be included in the recommendation such information as will enable a prompt and certain identification of such record.

b. How submitted: Each case will submitted separately and forwarded through command channels with the view or recommendations, either favorable or unfavorable, of each commander through who it passes. If the case requires War Department action, recommendations will be sent to The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D.C., except in the case of the Distinguished-Flying Cross and the Air Medal, which will be addressed to the Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D.C.

c. Recommendations made and lost: In cases of recommendations alleged to have been made within the prescribed period of time and lost, the certificate of an officer or the affidavit of an enlisted man to the effect that the recommendation was made within two years and placed in official channels, accompanied by a statement of the substance of said recommendation or preferably a copy therefore, will be accepted and the case considered on its merits.

(Compiled and reproduced by Office of Strategic Services)

30 June 1947: War Department Report on Decorations and Awards, 7 December 1941 through 30 June 1947:⁶

Decorations are awarded in recognition of an as a reward for extraordinary, unusual, or outstanding acts or services. They are intended primarily as recognition of war services.

Authority to Make Awards:

During the period covered by this report, awards of military decorations were made by the War Department or by designated commanders acting for the President. Authority to award the Medal of Honor and the Distinguished-Service Medal was not delegated by the War Department. Authority to award other decorations was delegated to subordinate commanders.

In June 1946 the authority of many subordinate commanders to award decorations was withdrawn and the authority of others was curtailed. By the closing date for this report, 30 June 1947, all awards of decorations had to be processed and approved by the War Department, except that certain commanders still retained authority to award the Army Commendation Ribbon.

Descriptions of Military Decorations:

Basic policies concerning military decorations are given in Army Regulation 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, and changes thereto. Policies as of the publication date of this report are summarized below:

[NOTE: Only the Silver Star summary is reprinted here.]

Silver Star. The Silver Star is awarded to persons who, while serving in any capacity with the Army, distinguish themselves by gallantry in action not warranting the award of a Medal of Honor or Distinguished-Service Cross. The term "gallantry" more specifically means heroism at the risk of life and so exceptional as to set the recipients apart from their comrades.

Headquarters, Army Air Forces

16 April 1943: Headquarters Army Air Forces, Assistant Chief of Staff, Personnel, Daily Diary:⁷ In an effort to raise morale on the home front, and to gain positive publicity for the Army Air Forces, the radio commentator, Lowell Thomas, suggested that a presentation of the Silver Star Medal awarded to Captain Richard E. Miller be presented on his radio show. In a conference between representatives of the Army Air Forces Personnel office and the War Department Bureau of Public Relations, it was decided that the suggested presentation was not appropriate since such a precedent would involve many complications and additional requests to do the same for others.

28 January 1944: Discussions were held between the Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Personnel (A-1), and War Department Personnel (G-1) concerning the limitations of awarding of the

⁶ Report, War Department Decorations and Awards, 7 December 1941 through 30 June 1947, prepared by Strength Accounting Branch, Office of the Adjutant General Under Direction of Statistical Division, Office of the Army Comptroller, 20 June 1947, AFHRA Call Number 170.4A, 30 Jun 1947, IRIS Number 130013.

⁷ Daily Diary, HQ AAF/AC/AS-1, Brigadier General J.M. Bevans, Ass't Chief of Air Staff, Personnel, to Commanding General, Army Air Forces, subject: Items of interest in the office of the Ass't Chief of Staff, Personnel, for April 16, 1943, AFHRA Call Number 121-1, Jan-Jun 1943, IRIS Number 110799.

Distinguished Flying Cross to their Air Liaison Officers serving with Field Artillery Divisions. The Executive Order establishing the Distinguished Flying Cross restricted the award to members of the military (Navy or Air Forces) who, while serving in any capacity with the Army Air Forces, distinguished themselves while participating in aerial flight. The Air Liaison Officers were not serving with the Army Air Forces, but with the Field Artillery, so they were not eligible for being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. The joint Personnel offices made a recommendation that the Silver Star Medal be used as a substitute in those cases in which the Distinguished Flying Cross might be appropriate for Air Liaison Officers serving with Field Artillery Units.⁸

25 March 1944: A message is sent out authorizing theatre commanders to award the Distinguished Flying Cross to army liaison pilots assigned to and on duty with Field Artillery Units. Therefore, the idea of using the Silver Star Medal as a substitute award for liaison pilots is put to rest and not resurrected again.⁹

European Theater

Headquarters European Theater of Operations

5 July 1942: Headquarters European Theater of Operations, United States Army, 5 July 1942, Memorandum, Authority to award Decorations:¹⁰

AG 210.5

5 July, 1942

SUBJECT: Authority to award Decorations

TO: C.G., 8th AF.

1. Under the provisions of paragraph 6b. AR 600-45, August 8, 1932, as amended by Section 111, WD Circular Number 5, January 8, 1942, you are authorized to award the following decorations in accordance with requirements for each award:

a. SILVER STAR.

Awarded to each person who, while an officer or enlisted man of the Army, is cited for gallantry in action *** which citation does not warrant the award of a Medal of Honor or the Distinguished Service Cross.

(AR 600-45, Aug. 8, 1932 – Par. 10)

[NOTE: Similar guidance is offered for the Purple Heart, Soldier's Medal, DFC, and are omitted in this extract.]

e. OAK-LEAF CLUSTER

Awarded for each succeeding deed, act, or achievement sufficient to justify the award of a Distinguished Service Cross, or a Soldier's Medal, or a Distinguished Flying Cross, respectively.

⁸ Diary, Headquarters, Army Air Forces, 28 January 1944, Subject: Special Service Diary, To Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Personnel, AFHRA Call Number 121.07, Aug 1943 through May 1944.

⁹ Diary, Headquarters, Army Air Forces, 28 March 1944, Subject: Daily Activity Report, To Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Personnel, AFHRA Call Number 121.07, Aug 1943 through May 1944.

¹⁰ Policy Memorandum, Headquarters European Theater of Operations, United States Army, 5 July 1942, "Authority to award Decorations," AFHRA Call Number 519.287, 1942-1943, IRIS Number 215465.

(AR 600-45, Aug. 8, 1932, - Par. 14a)

[NOTE: the Silver Star is not mentioned in the above.]

2. Three copies of each General Order announcing an award will be forwarded to this Headquarters.

By command of Major General EISENHOWER:

/s/ I.B. Summers
I.B. SUMMERS
Colonel, A.G.D.,
Adjutant General

18 November 1942: Headquarters European Theater of Operations, United States Army, Circular Number 74, Decorations and awards, 18 November 1942:¹¹

Circular No. 74

18 Nov. 1942

Decorations and awards

1. Decorations and Awards. 1. Section 1, Circular 20, Hq. USAFBI, 24 Apr. 1942; Section VII, Circular 22, Hq. USAFBI, 30 Apr 1942 (PAC Cable R-1881); Section 1, Circular 19, Hq. ETOUSA, 27 July, 1942; Seciton 1, Circular 62, Hq. ETOUSA, 16 Oct. 1942; Section VI, Circular 72, Hq. ETOUS, 10 Nov. 1942; and letter this headquarters, AG 210-.5, 5 July 1942, subject: "Awards, Badges Medals, and Decorations", to CG, Eighth Air Force, are rescinded.

2. The detailed requirements and procedures outlined in AR 600-45 as amended by Section 111, WD Circular No. 5, 1942, will be strictly adhered to in making recommendations.

3. Awards Available a. For heroism, gallantry, bravery etc. in action.

<u>Name</u>	<u>By whom awarded</u>	<u>Reference AR 600-45</u> (except as noted)
(1) Medal of Honor	War Department (through Hq. ETOUSA)	Sec 11, par 7
(2) Distinguished Service Cross	CG, ETOUSA	Sec 11, par 8
(3) Silver Star	Commander of unit which is an appropriate Command of a general officer.	Sec 11, par 10

e. For each subsequent award.

(1) Oak Leaf Cluster	Same authority as is required for initial award.	Sec 11, par 14.
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¹¹ Quoted in whole in Policy File, Eighth Air Force Decorations & Awards, Policy & Procedure, AFHRA Call Number 519.287, 1942-1943, IRIS Number 215465.

4. Administration. a. Par 16, AR 600-45, outlines in general the required administrative procedure.

b. The following additional administrative requirements will be observed in this theater; (1) Sufficient copies of all related papers will be forwarded on the cases requiring the approval of this headquarters so that at least two copies are received for those on which final action is to be taken here and three copies for those which are to be sent to the War Department.

(2) In every case an appropriate citation will be prepared by the headquarters initiating the recommendation, and each higher headquarters will either approve the citation as drafted or prepare a more appropriate one.

(3) Change No. 6, AR 600-45 directs publication of awards of decorations in general orders by all commanders authorized to make awards. Three copies of all such orders will be forwarded to the Adjutant General, Washington, D.C., one copy to the Directory, Bureau of Public Relations, Washington, D.C. and five copies to this headquarters, immediately upon issue. Upon actual presentation of the medal a written report will be forwarded promptly to this headquarters, including rank, name, place, date, serial number of recipient, and serial number of the decoration presented.

(4) In submitting recommendations for awards, care will be exercised to insure that the army serial number, current rank and organization, as well as rank and organization at time of deed or service for which the recommendation is made, are included and that appropriate supporting papers accompany each case.

(5) Change 4, AR 600-45 restricts the award of the Purple Heart by field commanders to individuals wounded in action (AG 210 x 220.5)

12 June 1944: Headquarters European Theater of Operations, United States Army, 12 June 1944, Memorandum, Awards and Decorations:¹²

1. Omitted from this extract.

2. In order that reviewing authorities may have a complete picture of the circumstances and facts upon which a recommendation is based, as prescribed in AR 600-45, 22 Sep 1943, as amended, and to insure that the act or deed is consistent with the requirements for the award recommended, a suggested form for submitting recommendations is inclosed.

3. It is essential that each recommendation includes all available evidence to support the case. Emphasis will be placed upon the supporting evidence and data rather than on the citation. In appropriate cases, supporting evidence in the form of affidavits or official records should be inclosed.

4. Commanders forwarding recommendations will insure that sufficient supporting evidence is furnished for the headquarters empowered to take final action to make an appropriate determination.

5. Omitted from this extract [foreign awards].

By command of General Eisenhower:
Signed

¹² Policy Memorandum, Headquarters European Theater of Operations, United States Army, APO 887, 12 June 1944, "Awards and Decorations," AFHRA Call Number 519.287, 1943-1945, IRIS Number 215466.

R.B. Lovett,
Brigadier General, USA,
Adjutant General

Form for submitting recommendations for awards:

200.6

(Date)

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of (Name of Medal).

TO: (Submit through proper channels.)

1. a. It is recommended that (Name) (ASN [army serial number]) (Rank) (Branch) (Orgn) (Staff Section, if appropriate) be awarded the (Name of Medal). (Present Status).

b. (Name) was serving as a (Grade and Duty) (ASN, if different than above) and was (Duty Status) (Unit) at the time of the act or service for which this award is recommended.

c. Name and address of nearest relative: _____.

d. Entered military service from: _____.

e. Decorations previously awarded: _____.

f. The entire service of (Name) has been honorable since the rendition by him of the act or service upon which this recommendation is based.

g. A similar recommendation for this individual (has) (has not) been submitted. (If previously submitted, include information as to where submitted, and action taken.)

2. a. The officer recommending this award (has personal knowledge) (was eyewitness to) the act or service upon which this recommendation was based. (NOTE: This subparagraph should be omitted if not applicable. When so omitted, testimony in the form of certificates or affidavits of two persons who have personal knowledge or were an eyewitness to the act, should accompany the recommendation.)

b. This recommendation is supported by (official records), a certified copy of which (is) (are) inclosed. (NOTE: Omit if not applicable.)

3. The appropriate remark for the award being recommended will be shown followed by a detailed narrative of the facts based upon the statement of a person who has personal knowledge or was an eyewitness, describing in detail, the service or action for which the award is recommended, whether or not the individual was wounded, and a statement of the results directly attributable to such service or action:

a. [Medal of Honor, DSC, DSM, LoM, DFC, SM, BSM, AM, Medal for Merit are all omitted from this extract]

For Silver Star: (Name) while serving with the Army of the United States, distinguished himself by gallantry in action:

b. Additional Remarks for Combat Awards: Date of act; location at which act or service was rendered; character of the terrain, character of hostile observation; character of enemy fire during period in which deed was performed; visibility, time of day, and atmospheric conditions; proximity of enemy; moral—that of our forces and the enemy.

c. DSM-LOM additional remarks, omitted from this extract.

4. Proposed citation: (Citation)

Signature of Recommending Officer

13 June 1944: Headquarters European Theater of Operations United States Army, APO 887, from the Adjutant General, Brig Gen R.B. Lovett, Policy Memorandum, Subject: Unclassified Extracts of Orders for Awards, Promotions, Etc, and of Letters of Commendation, to Commanding Generals, First US Army Group, US Strategic Air Forces in Europe, Each Army, ETOUSA, Iceland Base Command, Base Section Commanders, ETOUSA, 13 June 1944:¹³

1. In the interest of moral, a system of unclassified extract orders for promotions, citations, awards and decorations is instituted. Nothing herein contained will be construed to authorize the declassification of any classified matter except as provided by AR 380-5.

2. Information usually found in orders announcing promotions, awards, etc., which will not be included in unclassified extracts:

- a. The name of any individual except the one to whom the extract is issued.
- b. Any description of any combat or non-combat operation or of a series of such operations.
- c. Any description of equipment or technique used or evolved by the individual receiving the award.
- d. Any specifications of the period of time during which the individual's activities were such as to merit the award.
- e. Any direct or inferential information, more specific than the theater designation, as to the geographical location of any organization or individual.

3. Information which may be included in such extracts:

- a. Name, ASN, rank and regiment (or higher echelon of command) to which the individual is assigned.
- b. Reason for award, such as:
 - (1) For extraordinary achievement.
 - (2) For gallantry in action
 - (3) For meritorious achievement.
 - (4) For meritorious conduct.
 - (5) Other similar remarks.
- c. Statement as to the bearing, etc, displayed by the individual, as:
 - (1) The gallantry...
 - (2) The tenacity of purpose...
 - (3) The unselfish loyalty...
 - (4) The disregard for personal safety...
 - (5) The leadership in battle...
 - (6) The skill...
 - (7) The foresight...

4. A specimen extract of an award order is shown below. Attention is directed to the fact that names and signatures do not appear, except for the name of the recipient of the award:

¹³ Policy Memorandum, Headquarters European Theater of Operations, United States Army, APO 887, 13 June 1944, "Unclassified Extracts of Orders for Awards, Promotions, Etc, and of Letters of Commendation," to Commanding Generals, First US Army Group, US Strategic Air Forces in Europe, Each Army, ETOUSA, Iceland Base Command, Base Section Commanders, ETOUSA, AFHRA Call Number 533.183, May-Jun 1944 and 519.287, Nov 1943-Jun 1944, IRIS Number 215467.

E X T R A C T

General Orders)
)
No 1)

23 Jan 1945

AWARDS OF SILVER STAR

1. Under the provisions of AR\$ 600-45, the SILVER STAR is awarded, for gallantry in action, to:
 JOHN R. BLANK, 12345678, Sergeant, 999th Infantry Regiment, United States Army.
The courage, coolness, skill and disregard for personal safety displayed by this enlisted man reflect the highest credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States.

By order of the COMMANDING GENERAL:

OFFICIAL: /SEAL/

5. Unclassified extracts for promotions will follow the usual form for extracts from Special Orders but will show only one name, that of the individual being promoted.

6. All personnel are authorized to include these unclassified extracts in personal correspondence; however, such correspondence concerning an action or incident for which an award has been made will conform with censorship regulations as embodied in Circular No 33, this headquarters, 21 Mar 1944, as amended. As set for t in Par 9c (1), of such Circular No 33, no classified document concerning any promotion, award, decoration or citation will be transmitted as personal correspondence.

7. Letters of commendation will be unclassified only when the contents conform to the foregoing.

By command of General EISENHOWER:

R.B. Lovett,
Brigadier General, USA,
Adjutant General.

20 November 1945: United States Forces, European Theater, The General Board, Study Number 10, Awards and Decorations in a Theater of Operations, circa 20 November 1945.¹⁴

[NOTE: After the war a study on the effectiveness and shortcomings of awards and decorations in the European Theater was undertaken. The Silver Star came through relatively unscathed compared to the Air Medal and Bronze Star Medal.]

Page 9, The Silver Star:

The Silver Star is awarded by Commanding General of a theater of operations and by other commanding general to whom authority has been delegated to persons who, while serving in

¹⁴ Report, United States Forces, European Theater, Report of The General Board, Study Number 10, Awards and Decorations in a Theater of Operations, circa 20 November 1945, AFHRA Call Number 502.101-10, IRIS Number 204838.

any capacity with the army, distinguish themselves by gallantry in action against the enemy. The primary criticism of this award has been against its use instead of the Distinguished-Service Cross for actions which in many instances would appear to have warranted the latter.

Appendix I, Page 3, comments by Brigadier General George W. Read, Jr., Assistant Division Commander, Headquarters 6th Armored Division:

d. The Silver Star is an appropriate award for a Division Commander. Since it is for gallantry in action, it should rank just below the Distinguished Service Medal and ahead of the Legion of Merit.

United States Strategic Air Forces in Europe

3 April 1944: Letter, Lieutenant General Carl A. Spaatz to Commanding General, Air Service Command, APO 633, subject: Awards and Decorations, 3 April 1944:¹⁵

On this day General Spaatz delegated authority to the commanding general of the Air Service Command to award the following decorations to United States military personnel in the Air Service Command:

- Silver Star
- Distinguished Flying Cross
- Soldier's Medal
- Bronze Star medal
- Air Medal

Eighth Air Force

29 November 1942: Headquarters Eighth Air Force Office of the Commanding General Policy Letter, Awards and Decorations, 29 November 1942:¹⁶

210.5

29 November 1942

SUBJECT: Awards and Decorations

TO: Commanding Generals, VIII Air Force Service Command,
VIII Bomber Command,
VIII Fighter Command,
VIII Air Support Command,
VIII Air Force Composite Command

1. The following guide concerning recommendations for awards and decorations within the Eighth Air Force is published for the information of all concerned:

¹⁵ Letter, Lieutenant General Carl A. Spaatz to Commanding General, Air Service Command, United States Strategic Air Forces, APO 633, subject: Awards and Decorations, 3 April 1944, AFHRA Call Number 519.287, 1943-1945, IRIS Number 215466.

¹⁶ Headquarters Eighth Air Force, Office of the Commanding General, Policy Letter, 29 November 1942, Subject: Awards and Decorations, to Commanding Generals of subordinate commands within 8AF, AFHRA Call Number 519.287, 1942-1943, IRIS Number 215465.

[NOTE: All information not relating to the Silver Star is omitted from this extract.]

Award	By whom awarded	To whom awarded and acts of heroism, gallantry, service or achievement for which award is authorized.
Silver Star	CG, Eighth Air Force	To each officer or enlisted man who is cited for gallantry in action in orders published by Eighth Air Force Headquarters or a Higher Headquarters, which citation does not warrant the award of the Medal of Honor or the Distinguished Service Cross.

2. Omitted [definition of a sortie].
3. Omitted [DFC and Air Medal information.]
4. Recommendations for awards will be submitted to this Headquarters, in triplicate, on a form sample copy of which is attached.
5. Omitted [Purple Heart information.]

By command of Major General Eaker:

WILLIAM W. DICK,
Colonel, A.G.D.,
Adjutant General

Recommendations for Awards and Decorations
To be Submitted Through Military Channels.

- (a) Name _____
- (b) Present Rank and Organization _____
- (c) Present Serial Number _____
- (d) Grade and serial number at time of act for which award is recommended _____
- (e) Name and address of nearest relative _____
- (f) Address at time of enlistment _____
- (g) Place of enlistment _____
- (h) Awards previously made _____
- (i) Award recommended _____
- (j) By Commanding Officer of _____
- (k) Approved by _____
- (l) Date of act for which award is recommended _____
- (m) Location of act or mission for which award is recommended _____
- (n) Aerial or Ground Mission _____
- (o) Furnish information that is applicable in this case:
 - (1) Nature of Mission _____
 - (2) Type of Aircraft _____
 - (3) Objective _____
 - (4) Mission Accomplished _____
 - (5) Elevation _____
 - (6) Injuries to personnel and/or aircraft _____

(7) Was act for which Award is recommended before or after injuries were received? _____

(8) Others recommended for same act or mission _____

(9) Did act result in (1) Saving lives of others? _____

(2) Accomplishing vital missions? _____

(3) Safety of Aircraft? _____

(10) Was danger from hostile aircraft or ground fire? _____

(11) Damage accomplished: (1) To hostile aircraft _____

(2) To ground installations _____

(3) To hostile personnel _____

(12) Danger Involved _____

(13) Difficulties involved _____

(14) Was deed in line of duty or beyond all call of duty? _____

(15) Has the entire service of this person since the rendition by him of the service upon which the recommendation is based, been honorable? _____

(p) Short summary of act involved with particular reference to courage, skill or ability displayed. _____

(Name)

(Rank)

(Signature of officer who has personal knowledge of the truth of above statements or was an eye witness.)

If officer signing recommendation does not have personal knowledge of the act or was not an eye witness, signed affidavits by two eye witnesses must accompany all recommendations.

Instructions

1. An officer may be considered as having personal knowledge of the act for which an award is recommended when he has reviewed the A-2 interrogation, or has personally interviewed the eyewitnesses.

2. Only one person may receive credit for destroying an enemy aircraft. It is the responsibility of the group commander to determine who is to receive the credit when two or more persons contributed to destroying the same enemy aircraft.

3. and 4. Omitted [Purple Heart information.]

17 August 1943: Headquarters Eighth Air Force Office of the Commanding General Policy Letter, Awards and Decorations, 17 August 1943:¹⁷

210.5

17 August 1943

SUBJECT: Awards and Decorations

¹⁷ Headquarters Eighth Air Force, Office of the Commanding General, Policy Letter, 17 August 1943, Subject: Awards and Decorations, to Commanding Generals of subordinate commands within 8AF, AFHRA Call Number 526.287A, Aug 1943-Mar 1945; also at 519.287, 1942-1943, IRIS Number 215465.

TO: Commanding Generals, VIII Air Force Service Command,
VIII Bomber Command,
VIII Fighter Command,
VIII Air Support Command,
VIII Air Force Composite Command

Letter, Headquarters Eighth Air Force, 29 November 1942, subject as above, is hereby rescinded.

1. The following guide concerning recommendations for awards and decorations within the Eighth Air Force is published for the information of all concerned:

[NOTE: Only Silver Star relevant information is provided in this extract.]

Award	By whom awarded	To whom awarded and acts of heroism, gallantry, service or achievement for which award is authorized.
Silver Star	CG, Eighth Air Force AR 600-45, Sec. 2, Par. 10, par. 1, Ltr ETOUSA, 26 Dec, 42, authorizes award of Silver Star to any person serving with the Army of the United States.	To each officer or enlisted man who is cited for gallantry in action in orders published by Eighth Air Force Headquarters or a Higher Headquarters, which citation does not warrant the award of the Medal of Honor or the Distinguished Service Cross.

30 August 1943: Proceedings of the Awards and Decorations Board of Officers, Headquarters Eighth Air Force, Camp Griffiss, England, APO 633, 30 August 1943:¹⁸

On the 30 August 1943 Eighth Air Force Awards and Decorations Board of Officers met to determine the validity of the awards and decorations submitted from subordinate units. At this meeting an interesting and otherwise unwritten rule concerning the Silver Star Medal in the Eighth Air Force comes to light:

2. The following officers are recommended for the award of a Silver Star and an Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star for serving as Squadron Leaders, in which their Squadrons participated in thirty (30) bombing missions without loss of [an] airplane.

Major Lewis E. Lyle	303 rd Bomb Group
Major Glenn E. Hagenbuch	303 rd Bomb Group

In view of the Commanding General's desires that all Squadron Leaders who successfully lead their squadrons through fifteen (15) combat missions without loss of airplane be awarded the Silver Star, the Board recommends that Major Lyle and Major Hagenbuch be awarded a Silver Star for their successful leadership of their squadrons through the first cycle of fifteen missions and further recommends that he award of the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star to these

¹⁸ Minutes, Proceedings of the Eighth Air Force Awards and Decorations Board of Officers, 30 August 1943, AFHRA Call Number 519.287, 1942-1943, IRIS Number 215465.

officers for the successful leadership of the second cycle of fifteen missions be not favorably considered.

Evidently, Major General Ira C. Eaker wanted to recognize his bombardment squadron commanders for not losing their aircraft and utilized the Silver Star Medal as a leadership medal. However, the Awards Board drew the line for multiple awards for the same leadership success. They would award the Silver Star for 15 missions without losses, but no more after that.

7 December 1943: Awards and Decorations Chart, Eighth Air Force.¹⁹

Award or Decoration: Silver Star (Sec. 11, Par. 13, AR 600-45, 22 Sept 1943)

Awarded by: Commanding General Eighth Air Force AG 210.5, HQ ETOUSA (7-5-42)

Awarded to: Persons serving in any capacity with the Army.

Awarded for Exceptional Meritorious Service or Action?: No

Awarded for Single Act of Heroism?: Yes-Gallantry in Action not warranting Medal of Honor or Distinguished Service Cross.

Awarded only when engaged in conflict with an armed enemy of the U.S.?: Yes

Awarded for any wound or death incurred in action?: No

Awarded Posthumously?: Yes

Awarded for one Air Victory?: No

Awarded for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, ETC. Air Victory?: No

Awarded to more than one individual for the same act?: No

Awarded with other decorations for the act?: With Purple Heart Only

Proportionate Rank of Awards for Valor: 3 [MoH is 1, DSC is 2]

For 5 Bomber, Bomber-Fighter, Photographic, Air Transport, Observation with Distinction?: No

For each additional 5 missions of above?: No

For 10 Fighter sorties with distinction?: No

For each additional 10 Fighter sorties with distinction?: No

For 25 Bomber, Bomber-Fighter, Photographic, Air Transport, Observation with Distinction?: No

For 50 Fighter sorties with distinction?: No

Distinguishing Features: Those cited prior to 7 December 1941 for Gallantry in Action in orders issued by Headquarters of force commanded by General Officer which citation does not warrant award of Medal of Honor or Distinguished Service Cross may make application for Silver Star to the Adjutant General.

2 April 1944: Policy memorandum from Headquarters Eighth Air Force, Colonel Edward E.

Toro, Adjutant General, to Commanding General, 3d Bombardment Division, APO 559, 2 April 1944.²⁰

[NOTE: Only Silver Star Medal relevant information is included in the below extract.]

4. Recommendations for the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal and Legion of Merit [penciled in: Silver Star] will be forwarded to the appropriate approving authorities, through channels.

¹⁹ Eighth Air Force Awards and Decorations Chart, 7 December 1943, AFHRA subject file, "Awards, WWII DFC/Air Medal Monograph."

²⁰ Memorandum, Headquarters Eighth Air Force, Office of the Commanding General, Colonel Edward E. Toro, Adjutant General, to Commanding General, 3d Bombardment Division, APO 559, Subject, Awards and Decorations, 2 April 1944, AFHRA Call Number 527.287c.

By command of Lieut. General DOOLITTE:

Edward E. Toro
Colonel, A.G.D.
Adjutant General

18 April 1944: Headquarters Eighth Air Force Office of the Commanding General, APO 634, Memorandum Number 35-9, 18 April 1944:²¹

[NOTE: Only Silver Star Medal information is included in the below extract.]

MEMORANDUM)

18 April 1944

NO. 35-9)

PERSONNEL, MILITARY
Awards and Decorations

Section I

1. The following guide concerning recommendations for awards and decoration within the Eighth Air Force is published for the information of all concerned.

e. Silver Star – An act is evidence of “gallantry in action against an Armed Enemy of the United States” when it involves self-negation, disregard of personal safety, and an outstanding demonstration of personal force in the presence of danger to a degree that is inspiring to others, materially influencing others to higher performance of combat duty because of the example.

[NOTE: The rest of Section I and Sections II through IV are omitted due to non-relevant data to the Silver Star Medal.]

Section V
Recommendations

1. Recommendations for awards of decorations will be submitted on one of the two forms, inclosed herewith, i.e., recommendations for acts of heroism, gallantry, and flying achievement, to be submitted on the form listed as Inclosure No. 1; and, recommendations for the Legion of Merit and Distinguished Service Medal to be submitted on the from listed as Inclosure No. 2.

2. and 3. Omitted (not Silver Star information).

4. All recommendations for acts or achievement performed after personnel was wounded or injured will include a surgeon’s certificate, containing the following information: Nature of wound, severity of wound, extent to which person was incapacitated, degree of pain suffered.

²¹ Headquarters Eighth Air Force, Office of the Commanding General, APO 634, Memorandum Number 35-9, Personnel, Military, Awards and Decorations, 18 April 1944, AFHRA Call Number 526.287A, Aug 1943-Mar 1945.

5. In order to expedite awards, it is emphasized that the summary of the act contained a description, including all available facts pertinent to the act or services rendered.
6. No decoration shall be awarded or presented to any individual whose entire service subsequent to the time he distinguished himself shall not have been honorable.
7. Facts concerning the award will be entered on page 6 of the Service Record of enlisted men and date will be entered under "Remarks Administrative". Similar information will be entered under "Remarks" on WD AGO Form 66-1 or 66-2 for officers, warrant officers, and flight officers.

By command of Lieutenant General DOOLITTLE:

JOHN A. SAMFORD
Brigadier General, USA
Chief of Staff

Inclosure 1:

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS
TO BE SUBMITTED THOROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS.

- (a) Name
- (b) Present Rank and Organization
- (c) Present Serial Number
- (d) Grade and Serial Number at time of act for which award is recommended
- (e) Name and address of nearest relative
- (f) Entered Military Service from
- (g) Awards previously made
- (h) Awards recommended
- (i) By Commanding Officer of _____
- (j) Approved by
- (k) Date of act for which award is recommended
- (l) Location of act or mission for which award is recommended
- (m) Aerial or Ground Mission
- (n) Furnish information that is applicable in this case:
 - (1) Nature of Mission
 - (2) Type of Aircraft
 - (3) Objective
 - (4) Mission accomplished
 - (5) Elevation
 - (6) Injuries to personnel and/or aircraft
 - (7) Was act for which award is recommended before or after injuries were received?
 - (8) Others recommended in the same airplane on this occasion
 - (9) Did act result in
 - (1) saving lives of others?
 - (2) accomplishing vital mission?
 - (3) safety of aircraft?
 - (10) Was danger from hostile aircraft or ground fire?
 - (11) Damage accomplished
 - (1) to hostile aircraft
 - (2) to ground installations
 - (3) to hostile personnel

- (12) Danger involved
- (13) Difficulties involved
- (14) Has the entire service of this person since the rendition by him of the service upon which the recommendation is based, been honorable?

(o) Short summary of act involved with particular reference to courage, skill, or ability displayed.

(Name)

(Rank)

(Signature of officer who has personal knowledge of the truth of above statements or was an eye witness.)

If officer signing recommendation does not have personal knowledge of the act or was not an eye witness, signed affidavits by two eye witnesses must accompany all recommendations.

VIII Bomber Command

25 June 1942: Instructions from Headquarters VIII Bomber Command, Awards to Non-Pilot Crew Members, 25 June 1942.²²

VIII BC Instructions
No. 35-3

25 June 1942

Awards to Non-Pilot Crew Members

In making recommendation for the decoration or citation of individuals who distinguish themselves in action, the fact is often lost sight of that certain members of the combat crew, other than the pilot, oftentimes contributes as much, if not more, to the action in question.

It is desired at this time to bring to the attention of all Unit Commanders the desirability of giving due and proper recommendation to not only the pilots but the navigators, bombardiers, and gunners, who also contribute their full share to the success of such missions as may be assigned his unit.

When recommendations are submitted concerning the award of decorations or citations the following information should be furnished in each case:

- a. A full account of the action in question and the reasons such action merits special citation or commendation.
- b. A short chronological history of the individual or individuals in question in order to provide background for newspaper publicity in the event the recommended award is forthcoming.

22 October 1943: VIII Bomber Command Instructions Number 35-11, 22 October 1943, Personnel Military, Policy of Awards and Decorations.²³

²² Quoted in whole in Policy File, Eighth Air Force Decorations & Awards, Policy & Procedure, AFHRA Call Number 519.287, 1942-1943, IRIS Number 215465.

1. The following instructions will apply to all recommendations for awards and decorations to individuals of this Command.

2. Recommendations will provide adequate evidence that the individual recommend has distinguished himself by one of the following:

- a. Meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight.
- b. Extraordinary achievement or heroism while participating in aerial flight.
- c. Gallantry in action against an armed enemy of the United States.
- d-g omitted in this extract.

3. The following criteria will be observed in determining the appropriate recommendation.

[NOTE: the following is condensed from the original document.]

a. Meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight = Suitable award – Air Medal.

b. Extraordinary achievement or heroism while participating in aerial flight = Suitable award – Distinguished Flying Cross.

c. An act is evidence of “gallantry in action against an armed enemy of the United States: when it involves self-negation, disregard of personal safety, and an outstanding demonstration of personal force in the presence of danger to a degree that is inspiring to others, materially influencing others to higher performance of combat duty because of the example. Gallantry is considered appropriate to a single act or occasion and not to a series. Suitable award – Silver Star.

d through g omitted in this extract.

4. No recommendation for an award will receive favorable consideration unless the summary included in the recommendation clearly establishes that the individual has in fact distinguished himself in accordance with the above criteria to a degree that warrants his being selected from others as one to be set apart for recognition. So called automatic awards are not exempt from these provisions.

By command of Brigadier General F.L. Anderson:
John A. Samford,
Colonel, GSC,
Chief of Staff.

²³ HQ VIII Bomber Command Instructions, No. 35-11, 22 October 1943, AFHRA Call Number 523.205, 1942.

2d Bombardment (later Air) Division

30 December 1943: 2d Bombardment Division Instructions Number 35-4, 30 December 1943, Personnel Military, Awards and Decorations:²⁴

Section I General Provisions

1. Squadron and Group Commanders will use the utmost discretion in making recommendations for awards, using as a guide, letter, Headquarters 8th Air Force, 29 November 1942, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", VIII Bomber Command Instructions 35-11, 22 October 1943, and other pertinent instructions, as received.
2. All recommendations for awards will be submitted to this Headquarters as expeditiously as possible after completion of the act for which recommended. Recommendations will be submitted in sufficient quantity so as to reach the final Headquarters in duplicate. To prevent unnecessary delay in the processing of recommendations all entries on the recommendation form will be complete in their entirety. Care will be exercised that information submitted is accurate and complete in every respect.
3. The name, rank, and army serial number of personnel, not previously recommended for awards, will be checked against Service Records and WD AFO Forms 66-1 to insure the accuracy of initial recommendations.
4. The Commanding General of this Headquarters may not concur in the recommendation of the Squadron or Group Commander, and the reviewing authority at higher headquarters may not agree with either recommendation. Awards will be granted or declined, or may be increased or reduced in distinction, according to final interpretation.
5. Commanding Officers will insure that the achievement for which any award is recommended is truly "meritorious", and will certify that the service of awardee since the rendition of the act has been honorable.
6. Only one person may receive credit for destroying an enemy aircraft. It is the responsibility of the Group Commander to determine who is to receive the credit when two or more persons contribute to its destruction.
7. An officer may be considered as having personal knowledge of the act, and thereby become eligible to make recommendations, when he has reviewed the intelligence interrogation of has personally interviewed an eye witness.

Section II Recommendations for Meritorious Achievement

1. Basic recommendations for awards will be dated.
2. A statement classifying the action involved will be included in item (i), Award Recommended, as follows:

²⁴ Headquarters 2d Bombardment Division Instructions Number 35-4, 30 December 1943, Personnel Military, Awards and Decorations, AFHRA Call Number 526.287A, Aug 1943-Mar 1945.

- a. Congressional medal – Heroism beyond all Call of Duty.
- b. D.S.C. – Extraordinary Heroism in Action.
- c. D.S.M. – Exceptionally Meritorious Service in Duty of great responsibility.
- d. Silver Star – Gallantry in Action.

[e-h omitted in this extract.]

3. Individual recommendations for the various members of any one crew on one particular mission will be submitted at the same time.
4. In addition to a short summary of the meritorious achievement, courage, skill, and ability displayed, the explicit summary of the act involved (item p) will include:
 - a. Information as to the date of operation, and the target attacked, in the first paragraph.
 - b. In recommendations based upon leadership, particular reference to:
 1. Degree of operational and military success.
 2. Amount of flak encountered while approaching, over, and leaving the target.
 3. Danger from enemy aircraft while approaching, over, and leaving the target.
 4. Position in the formation of the attacking force.
 5. Weather conditions—favorable or unfavorable.

5. Medical Certificate.

- a. In all cases in which recommendation for an award is based upon heroic or gallant action while suffering from wounds as a result of enemy action, it is desired that a medical certificate be inclosed, and include the following specific information:
 1. The nature and extent of the injury sustained.
 2. The severity of the wounds.
 3. The extent to which the wounds probably interfered with the performance of duty.
 4. The degree of pain probably suffered by the wounded person, i.e., whether moderate, severe, or extreme.

[NOTE: Sections III and IV are omitted from this extract.]

By Command of Brigadier General Hodges:

Charles B. Westover
Colonel, Air Corps
Chief of Staff

29 October 1944: 2d Bombardment Division Instructions Number 35-4, 29 October 1944, Personnel Military, Awards and Decorations:²⁵

²⁵ Instructions, Headquarters 2d Bombardment Division, AAF 147, APO 558, 2d Bombardment Division Instructions Number 35-4, Personnel, Military, Awards and Decorations, 29 October 1944, AFHRA Call Number 526.175-55, 5 Dec 1944-16 Mar 1945.

PERSONNEL, MILITARY
Awards and Decorations

(These instructions supersede 2BD Instructions 35-4, dated 30 April 1944, 35-4A, dated 31 July 1944, and 35-4B, dated 26 August 1944)

SECTION I	Purpose
SECTION II	General Provisions
SECTION III	Citations and Commendations
SECTION IV	Specific Awards
SECTION V	Recommendations for Leadership and Command Achievement
SECTION VI	Presentation

SECTION I
Purpose

1. These instructions are issued to furnish to units of this command a guide in submitting recommendations for awards and decorations and to clarify and make uniform 2d Bombardment Division policies and procedures. These instructions will become effective 1 November 1944 and will not be retroactive.

SECTION II
General Provisions

1. Recommendations for awards will conform strictly to AR 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, European T of Opns U.S. Army Circular No. 32, dated 20 March 1944; Letter, Eighth Air Force, dated 14 February 1944, "Award of the Purple Heart"; Letter, War Department, dated 29 October 1943, "Battle Participation Awards"; Letter, Headquarters ETO, dated 14 September 1943, "Awards and Decorations", (guide for recommendations for DSM, DSC, LM); Eighth Air Force Instructions 35-8, dated 11 April 1944, and Eighth Air Force Memo 35-15, dated 9 October 1944.

2. Recommendation forms will be complete with full and accurate details and will be submitted expeditiously to this Headquarters with copies as follows:

2BD Citation	2	Distinguished Flying Cross	2
Unit Citation	5	Silver Star	5
Purple Heart	2	Legion of Merit	5
Air Medal	2	Distinguished Service Cross	5
Bronze Star	2	Distinguished Service Medal	5
Soldier's Medal	2	Medal of Honor	5

3. The name, rank and army serial number of personnel, not previously recommended for awards, will be checked against Service Records and WD AGO Forms 66-1.

4. Commanding Officers will insure that the recommendations are based on a truly "meritorious" achievement and will certify that the service of awardee since the rendition of the act has been honorable.

5. All recommendations will be reviewed by an Awards Board at 2d Bombardment Division which will recommend to awarding authority approval or disapproval, increase or reduction in distinction.

a. Awards Board will include representatives of Group, Combat Wing, and 2d Bombardment Division Headquarters.

6. Individual recommendations for the various members of any one crew or for one particular mission will be submitted at the same time.

7. Credit for destroying enemy aircraft will, in the case of bombardment personnel, be given to only one person. The Group Commander will decide which one of two or more claimants will receive the award. Credits for destruction of an enemy aircraft for Fighter personnel will be confirmed by a screening board of officers at Fighter Wing Headquarters.

a. Air Medal and Oak Leaf Clusters thereto will be awarded for the destruction of each enemy aircraft.

8. An officer may be considered as having personal knowledge of the act, and thereby become eligible to make recommendations, when he has reviewed the intelligence interrogation or has personally interviewed an eye witness.

9. Medical Certificate will accompany all recommendations involving wounds. The following information will be included:

a. The nature, location, and extent of the injury sustained.

b. Was the injury sustained of such a nature or severity as to require the attention of a Medical Officer.

c. The extent to which the wounds probably interfered with the performance of duty.

d. The degree of pain probably suffered by the wounded person, i.e., whether moderate, severe, or extreme.

e. Explanation of cases where injury resulted from possible negligence.

f. Personnel who have been severely frostbitten while actually engaged in combat may be considered. (Ref. Par 16a (2), Change 4, AR 600-45).

10. Recommendations involving personnel of Allied Forces for noncombatant achievements will be submitted for approval through channels to the War Department. Such recommendations will then be frozen until termination of the War. At that time, after further interview and coordination with the foreign government, the award may be approved.

a. It is strongly advised that recommendations be withheld until personnel accomplish their entire duties with the United States Army Air Forces, in that completed service is a stronger and more appropriate basis for award.

b. Awards available to Allied personnel in recognition of such non-combatant achievement are :

Distinguished Service Medal
Legion of Merit
Bronze Star

SECTION III

Citations and Recommendations

[Omitted as this portion does not deal with Silver Star Medal issues.]

SECTION IV Specific Awards

[NOTE: Only the Silver Star information is reproduced in this extract.]

6. Silver Star: For gallantry in action.

a. For specific acts involving action while wounded, or with individual risk of life.

(1) It will be noted that the Silver Star is in effect a minor Distinguished Service Cross requiring similar qualifications in lesser degree.

b. Exceptional acts of leadership involving unusual hazards and outstanding success will be considered as basis for award.

9. Distinguished Service Cross: for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy.

a. Recommendations may be made for a specific accomplishment involving heroism, bravery, and disregard of personal safety and will usually involve the choice of a more dangerous but equally honorable course of action.

SECTION V Recommendations for Leadership and Command Achievement

[Omitted as this portion does not deal with Silver Star Medal issues.]

SECTION VI Presentation

1. Presentation of medals will be made upon publication of General Orders with the written authorization of this Headquarters.

2. The Air Medal and Oak Leaf Clusters thereto, together with ribbons, will be presented by the Group or Squadron Commanders of units concerned.

3. The Purple Heart will be presented by Group or Squadron Commanding Officer or Hospital Commander.

a. Unit Commanding Officers will be responsible for prompt presentation either at home station or in hospital.

4. Other medals will be presented by the Commanding General of the Combat Bomb Wing and Fighter Wing.

5. Decorations will be presented as expeditiously as possible. If it is impossible to make presentation, when awardee is not available in the Theater, a report will be promptly submitted to this Headquarters in accordance with Eighth Air Force Instructions 35-8, dated 11 April 1944, Non-Presentation of Awards.

By command of Major General KEPNER:

FRANCIS H. GRISWOLD
Brigadier General, U.S.A.
Chief of Staff

**2d Combat Bombardment Wing
(2d Air Division)**

29 March 1944: Meeting notes by Brigadier General E.J. Timberlake, Jr., of Decorations Board of Headquarters, Eighth Air Force, 29 March 1944, dated 31 March 1944:²⁶

[NOTE: Only the Silver Star material is reprinted in the below extract.]

In regards to the Silver Star, General Timberlake noted in paragraph d:

Many Silver Star recommendations were cut down to D.F.C. [Distinguished Flying Cross] when it was evident that outstanding achievement and not gallantry was the cause of the recommendation. Incidentally a crew member who is wounded and returns to his post of duty and continues his assignment will usually be awarded the Silver Star. On the other hand if he is wounded and can not return to his post, the award for the Silver Star will not be approved.

General Timberlake also believed that DFC recommendations were being inflated in an attempt to get them to the Silver Star Medal level, and he did not approve of such shenanigans:

2. It is further suggested that the award of the D.F.C. be regarded as a high award and all attempts to boost achievement up to the Silver Star be discouraged.

5 April 1944: Meeting notes of Colonel Leland G. Fiegel, Commander, 93rd Bombardment Group, of Eighth Air Force Awards and Decorations Board meeting of 5 April 1944:²⁷

[NOTE: Only Silver Star Medal relevant data is reprinted in this extract.]

5. The board takes a very lenient view on award of Distinguished Flying Cross and Silver Star to Air Commanders and lead crew members based on an accumulation of successful missions. These will be approved with much less argument than leadership based on a single mission.

6. It was explained to the board that General Spaatz [commander, U.S. Strategic Air Forces in Europe] and General Kepner [commander, 2d Bombardment Division] had set an unwritten policy to recommend a [fighter] pilot of the Distinguished Service Cross as soon as he has around ten or twelve planes [shot down] to his credit. All Bomb Division representatives agreed that it was an excellent policy, but that a similar basis for Distinguished Service Cross award

²⁶ Memorandum, Headquarters 2d Combat Bombardment Wing, Brig Gen E.J. Timberlake, Jr. to Headquarters, 2d Bombardment Division, Commanding General, Subject, Meeting of Decorations Board at Pinetree, 29 March 1944, AFHRA Call Number 526.287A, Aug 1943-Mar 1945.

²⁷ Memorandum, Colonel Leland G. Fiegel, 96th Bomb Group Commander, to Commanding General, 2d Bombardment Division, AAF 147, APO 558, Subject: Eighth Air Force Board Meeting on Awards and Decorations, 8 April 1944, AFHRA Call Number 526.287A, Aug 1943 through Mar 1945.

should be laid down for bomber people. Under present policy, it is almost impossible for bomber crew members to receive the Silver Star for a single act unless wounded and continuing to carry out duties [much less getting a DSC].

3 August 1944: Headquarters 2d Bombardment Division, AAF 147, APO 558, Memorandum, Subject: Awards and Decorations," to Commanding Officers, All Bombardment Groups, This Division, APO 558, 3 August 1944:²⁸

200.6

3 August 1944

SUBJECT: Awards and Decorations.

TO: Commanding Officers, All Bombardment Groups, This Division, APO 558.

1. The approval of recommendations for awards and decorations is often dependent upon the phraseology used in the narrative and suggested citation. The narrative should be accurate and factual in order to provide the awarding authority a clear and concise picture of the actions for which the awardee is recommended. The citation should convey a general picture indicating the category of the action, a brief description, and a summary of the personal characteristics of the individual involved. Careful attention to these details may often represent the difference between approval and disapproval of a recommendation.

2. In order to furnish an Awards Officer with a background of awards actually approved, a compilation of actual citations extracted from General Orders is attached. Careful study will enable Awards Officers to obtain a picture of the type of actions which had been recognized and the general form of phraseology utilized.

By command of Major General KEPNER:

GEORGE L. PAUL
Major AGD
Adjutant General

1 Incl:

Incl 1 – Extracts of General Orders.

[NOTE: Only the Silver Star Medal suggested citations are presented in this extract.]

Suggested Citations for Silver Star

_____, ASN, Second Lieutenant, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For gallantry in action, while serving as Navigator-Bombardier of a *** airplane on an operational mission over enemy occupied Europe, ***. During the bombing run, but prior to reaching the target, Lieutenant ____ was seriously wounded by fragments of a bursting flak shell. Though suffering severe pain and unable to use either of his hands, he valiantly tried to explain to the aerial gunner, who was in the nose of the plane with him, how to release the bombs on the target. While still attempting to make the gunner understand, Lieutenant ____ lost consciousness. The gallantry, tenacity of purpose and devotion to duty displayed by Lieutenant ____ set an inspiring example for his comrades. Entered Military Service from ****.

²⁸ Headquarters 2d Bombardment Division, Awards and Decorations policy memorandum, to Commanding Officers, All Bombardment Groups, This Division, APO 558, 3 August 1944, AFHRA Call Number 526.287A, Aug 1943-Mar 1945.

_____, ASN, Colonel, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For gallantry in action against the enemy during the period from ___ to ___. Colonel _____, serving as commander in the Air of the *** Combat Wing, first led his units on a deep penetration to Germany and despite fierce enemy opposition and adverse weather, bombed the assigned target, causing vast destruction. On a second mission, he led his wing in a highly successful attack against a strongly defenced objective in enemy occupied territory. Leading a third mission during this short period of time, Colonel _____, in addition to commanding the Wing, assumed the leadership of the entire Task Force and gain accomplished his assignment with outstanding success. Colonel _____ gallantry, sound judgment and leadership in battle inspired all under his command and insured the success of each of these operations. Entered Military service from ***.

_____, ASN, First Lieutenant, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For gallantry in action, while piloting a *** on a bombardment mission over Germany, ***. Just after "bombs away", two engines of Lieutenant _____ aircraft were damaged by flak and had to be feathered. Unable to remain with the formation, he dove his plane to low altitude and started the long return journey unescorted. Shortly after this Lieutenant _____ was seriously wounded, when his plane was subjected to intense fire from anti-aircraft batteries. Although suffering severe pain, he refused first-aid and remained at the controls, determined to return his aircraft and crew. Constantly encouraging his crew, three of who were wounded, Lieutenant _____ flew the crippled bomber back to England and accomplished a safe landing on the first available airfield. His gallantry, coolness and devotion to duty were a source of inspiration to all flying with him.

_____, ASN, Staff Sergeant, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For gallantry in action, while serving as Tail Gunner of a *** airplane on a bombardment mission over Germany, ***. Prior to reaching the objective, enemy fighters made vicious attacks, trying desperately to break up the formation. Manning his guns with courage and great skill, Sergeant _____ succeeded in damaging several of the fighters and assisted in repelling repeated attacks. During the withdrawal from the target the fighter attacks became even more savage. One fighter, concentrating on Sergeant _____ position, riddled the tail compartment with cannon fire and severely wounded him. Though in intense pain, Sergeant _____, rather than call for assistance at such a critical time, remained at his battle station until the attacks ceased. Even then he did not ask for help, but, unassisted, made his way t t the radio compartment. Sergeant _____ gallantry, fortitude, and utter disregard for his own safety inspired his comrades and contributed to their safe return. Entered military service from ***.

_____, ASN, Staff Sergeant, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For gallantry in action against the enemy while participating in a heavy bombardment mission over enemy occupied Europe on ***. Enroute to the target, the *** airplane in which Sergeant _____ was flying as Ball Turret Gunner was savagely attacked by hostile fighters. On the initial assault, the door of the ball turret was blown off and the oxygen line to the turret damaged, causing Sergeant _____ to lose consciousness. After being revived, he re-entered his turret, strapped himself in and despite the temperature in the open turret being minus thirty-five degrees centigrade, continued to fight off the repeated attacks. During the return journey, he remained at his guns and assisted in warding off a number of attacks by the fighters. Sergeant _____ left his precarious position only when there was no longer a danger of further attacks, having remained in his turret for four hours after it was damaged. His gallantry, indomitable fighter spirit and devotion to duty set an inspiring example for the entire crew. Entered military service from ***.

_____, ASN, First Lieutenant, Army Air forces, United States Army. For gallantry in action, while leading a flight of our *** fighter aircraft on an escort mission over Germany, ***. Returning from the mission, Lieutenant ___ sighted an enemy airfield with ten aircraft parked on it. Though their [fuel] supply was running dangerously low, he led his flight in four vigorous attacks, all the while being subjected to intense and accurate ground fire. On each attack, Lieutenant ___ personally accounted for the destruction of one FW-190, but in accomplishing this outstanding feat, his aircraft was severely damaged by the heavy enemy fire. When he gave the order to head for home, the flight had accounted for the destruction or damage of all ten aircraft, most of which were left in flames. Lieutenant _____ crossed the English coast with his fuel supply practically exhausted. His gallantry, aggressiveness and determination to destroy the enemy were largely responsible for the success of this daring, low-level attack. Entered military service from ***.

_____, ASN, Second Lieutenant, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For gallantry in action, while piloting a *** airplane on a bombardment mission over enemy occupied Europe on ***. Enroute to the target, one engine of his aircraft was disabled by flak. In spite of this handicap, Lieutenant ___ maintained his position in the formation and maneuvered his aircraft with such skill against attacking fighters that his crew were able to destroy two of them. After successfully bombing the target, his plane was again attacked by fighters and during this battle #4 engine was rendered useless, making it impossible to remain with the formation. Approaching the English Channel, heavy fire from ground batteries knocked out a second engine, started a blaze in the cockpit and tore away a large portion of the wing surface. After giving the order to abandon plane, Lieutenant ___ discovered that two members of the crew were seriously wounded and without hesitation decided to attempt to reach England. However, when a third engine cut out over the English Channel, he was forced to ditch his crippled bomber, accomplishing this with exceptional skill. After leaving the cockpit through the pilot's window, he made his way to the radio hatch and opening it, assisted the trapped crewmen in escaping from the sinking plane. The gallantry, determination and devotion to duty and his comrades demonstrated by Lieutenant ___ are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military services from ***.

_____, ASN, Second Lieutenant, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For gallantry in action, while serving as Bombardier of a ** airplane on a mission over enemy occupied Europe on ***. During the bombing run, but prior to reaching the point of release, a fragment of flak struck Lieutenant ___ in the throat severely wounding him. He was knocked from his position, where he was preparing to release his bombs. The Navigator hastened to his side, intent on administering first-aid. With blood gushing from his throat, Lieutenant ___, unable to speak, struggled free of the Navigator and returned to the bombsight. Holding one hand on his throat to partially stop the flow of blood, he released his bombs precisely with the lead plane, closed the bomb bay doors and then collapsed. Only then was the Navigator able to check the hemorrhage and administer first-aid treatment. Lieutenant ___ gallantry, disregard for personal safety and complete devotion to duty inspired all who were flying with him and contributed to the success of the mission. Entered military service from ***.

_____, ASN, Sergeant, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For gallantry in action against the enemy while on a heavy bombardment mission over Germany on ***. Shortly after the bombing run, the Pilot of the *** in which Sergeant ___ was serving as Tail Gunner was forced to leave the formation due to severe damage inflicted by hostile fighters. During these savage assaults, he manned his guns with exceptional skill and warded off repeated attacks on his position. While returning at "tree top" altitude, fragments of bursting flak shell seriously wounded Sergeant _____. The Pilot sent a member of the crew to the ail compartment to remove

him from the turret and administer first-aid treatment. Though suffering extreme pain, Sergeant ___ refused treatment and continued to man his guns against the enemy, leaving his turret only after the aircraft had returned to England. The gallantry, disregard for personal safety and devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant ___ inspired his comrades and contributed to their safe return. Entered military service from ***.

_____, ASN, Captain, Army Air Forces, United States Army. (Missing in Action). For gallantry in action, while leading a Squadron of *** aircraft on a bombardment mission over Germany on ***. During the first run over the target, which was made through an intense barrage of flak, one engine of Captain ___ aircraft was knocked out and set afire. Due to a dense haze over the target, which obscured the aiming point, the Group Commander ordered a second run to be made. Despite the fact that he #1 engine was burning furiously, Captain ___ maintained his position in the formation and led his squadron on a successful bombing run. Just after "bombs away", another burst of anti-aircraft fire completely tore the #3 engine from the wing and threw the plane out of control. When last seen, the left wing of his aircraft was a mass of flames. The gallantry, determination and leadership in battle displayed by Captain ___ uphold the high traditions of the Army Air Forces of the United States. Entered military service from ***.

_____, ASN, First Lieutenant, Army Air Forces, United States Army. (Missing in Action). For gallantry in action, while flying a *** fighter aircraft on a bomber escort mission over enemy occupied Europe, ***. When the aircraft of his wingman developed a malfunction and began to lose altitude, Lieutenant ___ escorted him out of enemy territory. Just after crossing the enemy coast the crippled aircraft burst into flames. At the same time shore batteries opened up on the aircraft as the Pilot was attempting to bail out. With utter disregard for his own safety, Lieutenant ___ flew over the shore batteries drawing their fire and thus enabled his wingman to abandon the flaming aircraft. Lieutenant ___ then circled the dinghy, all the while being subjected to intense and accurate fire, in order that the Air-Sea Rescue could obtain an accurate fix on the position. It was not until after a rescue plane arrived and picked up his comrade that he headed for his base in England. Lieutenant ___ gallantry and disregard for his own safety in the face of heavy enemy fire were undoubtedly responsible for the safe return of a fellow flyer. Entered military service from ***.

___, ASN, Captain, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For gallantry in action, while piloting the leading *** airplane of a Group formation on a bombardment mission over Germany, ***. About fifteen minutes before reaching the target area, a large number of enemy fighters made concentrated attack on the Group in which Captain ___ was flying. An exploding cannon shell wounded him, lacerating both of his feet, and destroyed the rudder control. Undaunted by the ferocity of the attack, Captain ___, though suffering severe pain, reassembled the Group into a strong defensive formation and continued on to the target, bombing it effectively. It was not until after the integrity of the group formation had been attained, during the withdrawal, that he submitted to first-aid by the Navigator, who applied tourniquets to both legs to prevent further loss of blood. Even then he remained at the controls, relinquishing them to the Co-Pilot after crossing the English coast. Captain ___ gallantry, disregard for personal safety and devotion to duty served as an inspiration to his crew and contributed to the completion of the mission. Entered military service from ***.

3d Bombardment (later Air) Division

Circa 21 April 1944: Headquarters 3d Bombardment Division, Awards and Decorations Policy Pamphlet: ²⁹

Page 4, Silver Star checklist:

SILVER STAR Gallantry

1. _____ distinguished himself by gallantry in action while serving as _____ on a heavy bombardment mission over _____, date _____.
2. See page 7 (below).
3. Describe briefly individual accomplishment, achievement or action as a preface to one or more of the appropriate sub-paragraphs listed below.
 - a. Action constituting self denial and disregard of personal safety aiding in the survival of others.
 - b. Action, in battle, of great personal danger, involving high responsibility and resulting in the successful completion of the mission.
 - c. Display of command, strength, skillful judgment and fighting ability while in combat so outstanding as to inspire others to higher performance of combat duty.
 - d. Remaining at battle position and continuing to fight after being seriously wounded and though suffering great pain.
4. Examples of final paragraph which may be used as summary achievement described above.
 - a. Aiding in success of mission.
 - (1) This display of gallantry and indomitable will to carry on against great odds served as an inspiration to his fellow flyers and materially contributed to the destruction of a target of vital importance to the enemy's war effort.
 - (2) His disregard for personal safety and tenacity of purpose provided the leadership in battle that was necessary to successfully bomb this heavily fortified objective. The gallantry displayed by _____ on this occasion reflects highest credit on himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.
 - (3) The gallantry and high degree of technical skill displayed by _____ materially aided in the completion of a highly successful bombing mission and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.
 - b. Survival of Others.

²⁹ Headquarters 3d Bombardment Division, Awards and Decorations pamphlet, circa 21 April 1944, AFHRA Call Number 527.287c.

(1) The gallantry, tenacity of purpose, flying skill and devotion to duty displayed by _____ materially aided in the safe return of his aircraft and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.

(2) The gallantry, flying skill and devotion to duty displayed by _____ saved his aircraft and crew from probable destruction and upholds the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces.

(3) The gallantry, skill and complete disregard for his own safety displayed by _____ undoubtedly saved the lives of his crewmen and reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.

(4) The safe return of his aircraft is directly attributable to the fighting spirit of _____ and in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Page 7, Applicable to paragraph 2, above, for all awards:

a. Description of Mission.

- (1) Importance of target.
- (2) Distance, duration and altitude.
- (3) Weather (clear, cloudy, snow, ice, rain, wind, fog, visibility).
- (4) Position in formation (Combat Wing, Group, Squadron).
- (5) Friendly fighter support.
- (6) Bombing.
 - (a) PFF or Visual.
 - (b) Number of bombs dropped.
 - (c) Number of pounds within 1,000 feet of aiming point.
 - (d) Number of pounds within 2,000 feet of aiming point.

b. Difficulties encountered.

- (1) Enemy aircraft encountered by formation, by plane. (Number, type, tactics, armament and projectiles).
- (2) Results: E/A destroyed, probably destroyed, and damaged.
- (3) Anti-aircraft encountered. (Degree, accuracy, type).
- (4) Smoke screens.
- (5) Loss or damage to formation, to plane. (From anti-aircraft fire. From enemy aircraft fire).
- (6) Casualties in air craft, in formation. (MIA, KIA, SWIA, WIA [SWIA=Slightly Wounded In Action]).
- (7) Mechanical difficulties (or malfunctions).
- (8) Personal handicaps (wounds, oxygen failures, etc).

Page 8, Check Sheet applicable only to Combat Awards:

[NOTE: This check sheet lists out the Air Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, Silver Star, the Distinguished Service Cross and Medal of Honor, with the following columns for the regulatory requirements for each award shown by the word 'yes' or by description. Considerations for recommending the award are shown by 'x'. For the purpose of this study for just the Silver Star, only the requirements, descriptions, or x will be shown for that award; however, all of the entries under the Achievement column will be shown, whether it applies to the Silver Star or not, below.]

<u>Achievement</u>	<u>Silver Star Gallantry</u>
Professional Skill under battle conditions	x
Bombing Results N/A	x
Opposition Flack Destroyed Enemy Aircraft	x x
Damage To Formation To Plane	x x
Personnel Losses To Formation To Plane	x x
Number of Missions	Must be in Combat
Weather	
Mechanical Difficulty	
Duration and Altitude	
Self-Sacrifice	x
Risk of Life Beyond Call of Duty	x
Meritorious achievement Commendable, laudable	
Extraordinary achievement Remarkable, outstanding Unprecedented, eminent	x x
Heroism, bravery, courage Fearlessness, tenacity	x x

Gallantry – self-denial Yes
Disregard of personal safety Yes

Intrepidity – dauntlessness
Valor

Note: Regulatory requirements for award are show by the word “yes” or by description.
Considerations for recommending the award are shown by “x”.

9 April 1944: By this time the DFC, Air Medal and Soldier’s Medal were now reviewed at the Division level in Eighth Air Force for approval or disapproval. Therefore the 3d Division publicized their procedures for recommendations going to their award board.³⁰

[NOTE: Only Silver Star information is presented, below, in this extract.]

Awards and Decorations, 3d Bombardment Division

9 April 1944

1. & 2. Omitted (Non-Silver Star information).

3. Recommendations for awards will be generally processed under the following headings:

a. Awards Made by Higher Authority (Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit and Unit Citations)

(Rest of document omitted as there is no further mention of the Silver Star Medal.)

4th Bombardment Wing
(3rd Air Division, Eighth Air Force)

6 June 1943: Headquarters 4th Bombardment Wing Instructions Number 35-1, Personnel, Military, Awards & Decorations, 6 June 1943.³¹

[NOTE: Only Silver Star Medal information is reprinted in the below extract.]

4th BW INSTRUCTIONS

No. 35-1)

6 Jun 1943

PERSONNEL, MILITARY
Awards & Decorations

1. General.

The prompt award of decorations to those entitled to them is an important moral factor. All concerned should make a thorough study of AR 600-45, with changes 1 to 6, and War

³⁰ Policy Memorandum, Awards and Decorations, 3d Bombardment Division, from Colonel T.B. Scott Jr., AC/S A-1, to Chief of Staff, 9 April 1944, AFHRA Call Number 527.287B, Sep 1943-Apr 1944.

³¹ Headquarters, 4th Bombardment Wing Instructions, Number 35-1, 6 June 1943, Personnel, Military, Awards & Decorations, AFHRA Call Number 527.287c.

Department circular 391, 1942. The requirements and procedures outlined in these regulations will be strictly adhered to in making recommendations. Particular attention should be paid to the correctness of Name, Rank, Army serial number and the facts involved. With reference to par. 2g (1), War Department Circular 39, 1942, attention is directed to the fact that recommendations for the Silver Star,...are not required to be accompanied by affidavits of eyewitnesses (8BC567C) [Eighth Bomber Command message, 567c]. Recommendations for the award of decorations may be initiated by any officer having information of the facts, either as an eyewitness or from the testimony of persons who have personal knowledge or were eyewitnesses. An officer may be considered as having personal knowledge of the act for which an award is recommended when he has reviewed an A-2 interrogation or has personally interviewed eyewitnesses.

Squadron Commanders are responsible that records are kept of all sorties made and aircraft destroyed by members of their organizations. Upon the transfer of an enlisted man to another unit, complete information as to sorties made and aircraft destroyed will be entered in soldier's service record under remarks Administrative, and this record will be authenticated by the Squadron Commander or Station Personnel Officer.

All awards made will be entered in Service Records of enlisted men and on form number 66-1 of officers.

Only one person can be credited with the destruction of a single enemy aircraft. Squadron and/or Group Commanders will determine who is to be credited with the aircraft destroyed.

2. through 4. Omitted (pertains to other awards).

5. OAK LEAF CLUSTER.

Recommendation for the bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to be worn on the ribbon pertaining to any decoration previously awarded to an individual will conform to regulations governing the original recommendation.

6. CITATIONS.

In every case where inclosure number 1 is used, a appropriate citation will be prepared by the officer initiating the recommendation. (To be included in par. (p) of inclosure number 1). Each higher commander will either approve or disapprove the citation, or prepare a more appropriate one.

7. PRESENTATION.

When presentation of awards other than Purple Heart is made at a Station, it is the responsibility of the Station Commander to make a written report through channels to Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, showing rank, name, place, date and serial number of recipient, and serial number of the decoration presented.

8. REFERENCES.

AR 600-45 (Changes 1 to 6)
WD Cir 391, 1942
ETO Cir 36, 1943

By Command of Brigadier General F.L. Anderson:

JOHN W. WISEHEART
Major, Air Corps
Adjutant

VIII Fighter Command

10 April 1944: By this time the DFC, Air Medal and Soldier's Medal were now reviewed at the Division level in Eighth Air Force for approval or disapproval. However, a meeting was called at Fighter Command by General Kempner for the purpose of discussing coordination of awards policy as between Fighter Command and the three Bombardment Division of VIII Bomber Command. General Williams, General Hodges and General LeMay represented the bombardment divisions at this meeting. The minutes of this meeting were captured in a memorandum. Paragraph 2d was the only reference to the Silver Star Medal:³²

2. d. Silver Star – There was considerable discussion of increasing the number of Silver Star awards for leadership. However, authority to award the Silver Star will still be retained by Eighth Air Force. I believe that the present tendency of Eighth Air Force will be to restrict the award of the Silver Star for leadership to very exceptional acts of leadership rather than an outstanding performance of a successful mission, in order to conform with the requirements that the Silver Star is in effect a minor DSC [Distinguished Service Cross]. In any event, Silver Star policy will be dictated from Eighth Air Force.

VIII Air Force Service Command

24 September 1942: VIII Air Force Service Command, Policy Memorandum, Number 75-5, 24 September 1942, Personnel, Awards and Decorations:³³

24 September 1942

Memorandum
No. 75-5

Personnel
Awards and Decorations

1. On the attached Memorandum is a list of awards, and regulations governing same, which may be made to officer and men of the VIII Air Force Service Command.
2. Recommendations for awards should be thoroughly investigated to insure:
 - a. That the duties performed come within the requirements for the award.
 - b. That such recommendations are properly executed.
3. It is the desire of the Commanding General that personnel of this Command should be recommended for merited awards by their Commanding Officers. Prompt recommendation in recognition of outstanding performances greatly aids moral and efficiency.

³² Headquarters 2d Bombardment Division, Lt. Col Ray P. Foote, AC of S, A-1, 10 April 1944, AFHRA Call Number 527.287c.

³³ Headquarters VIII Air Force Service Command ETOUSA Memorandum Number 75-5, 24 September 1942, Personnel, Awards and Decorations, AFHRA Call Number 528.186, Mar-Jun 1943.

By Command of Major General FRANK:

L.W. Miller,
Brig. Gen. U.S.A.
Chief of Staff

Attachment, Awards and Decorations Check Sheet:

Awards and Decorations

1. The following are extracts of Army Regulations, Circulars, and correspondence with reference to the award of decorations:

[NOTE: All information not relating to the Silver Star is omitted from this extract.]

d. Silver Star

(1) Is awarded to each person who, while an officer or enlisted man of the Army, is cited for gallantry in action in orders, which citation does not warrant the award of a Medal of Honor, or Distinguished Service Cross.

(2) This award may be presented by the Commanding General, ETOUSA.

2. In time of war, awards and decorations will be announced only in General Orders issued by the War Department or the Theater Commander.

3. In submitting recommendations for Awards of Decorations to this Headquarters, it is desired that the following facts be given in each recommendation:

- a. Name
- b. Rank and Organization
- c. Serial Number
- d. Award recommended
- e. By Commanding Officer of _____
- f. Approved by
- g. Date of act for which Award is recommended
- h. Location of act or mission for which Award is recommended
- i. Aerial or Ground Mission
- j. Furnish all information that is applicable in each case, i.e.:
 - (1) Nature of Mission
 - (2) Type of Aircraft
 - (3) Objective
 - (4) Mission accomplished
 - (5) Elevation
 - (6) Injuries to personnel and/or aircraft
 - (7) Was act for which Award is recommended before or after injuries were received?
 - (8) Others recommended for same act or mission
 - (9) Did act result in
 - (1) Saving lives of others
 - (2) Accomplishing vital mission
 - (3) Safety of aircraft?

- (10) Was danger from hostile aircraft or ground fire?
- (11) Damage accomplished
 - (1) To hostile aircraft
 - (2) To ground installations
 - (3) To hostile personnel?
- (12) Danger involved
- (13) Difficulties involved
- (14) Was deed in line of duty or beyond all call of duty?

k. Short summary of act involved with particular reference to courage, skill, or ability displayed.

4. Members of the VIII Air Force Service Command are eligible for all Awards designated in this Memorandum.

5. While it is the desire of the Commanding General VIII A.F.S.C., to properly reward unusual services, care must be taken to be sure the awards are well deserved. Service in line of duty is expected and does not warrant decoration.

6. Omitted [concerns the Legion of Merit.]

2 December 1942: Headquarters VIII Air Force Service Command, Policy Memorandum, Number 75-5, 2 December 1942, Personnel:³⁴

2 December 1942

Memorandum
No. 75-5

Personnel
(This Memorandum supersedes Memorandum No. 75-5,
24 September, 1942).

1. The attached inclosure contains a list of awards, and regulations governing same, which may be made to officers and men of the VIII Air Force Service Command.
2. Recommendations for awards should be thoroughly investigated to insure:
 - a. That the action performed comes within the requirements for the award.
 - b. That such recommendations are properly executed.
3. It is the desire of the Commanding General that personnel of this Command should be recommended for merited awards by their Commanding Officers. Prompt recommendation in recognition of outstanding performances greatly aids moral and efficiency.

By Command of Brigadier General MILLER:

L.B. HICKAM,
Colonel, A.C.
Acting Chief of Staff

1 Incl: Awards and Decorations, listed:

³⁴ Headquarters VIII Air Force Service Command ETOUSA Memorandum Number 75-5, 2 December 1942, Personnel, AFHRA 519.287, 1942-1943, IRIS Number 215465.

Awards and Decorations

1. The following are extracts of Army Regulations, Circulars, and correspondence with reference to the award of decorations:

[NOTE: All information not relating to the Silver Star is omitted from this extract.]

d. Silver Star (AR 600-45, Sect II par 10)

(1) Is awarded to each person who, while an officer or enlisted man of the army, is cited for gallantry in action in orders, which citation does not warrant the award of a Medal of Honor, or Distinguished Service Cross.

(2) This award may be presented by the Commanding of a unit which is an appropriate command of a general officer.

2. In time of war, awards and decorations will be announced only in General Orders issued by all commanders authorized to make awards. (Ch 6, AR 600-45).

3. In submitting recommendations for Awards of Decorations to this Headquarters, it is desired that the following facts be included:

- a. Name
- b. Rank and Organization
- c. Serial Number
- d. Award recommended
- e. By Commanding Officer of _____
- f. Approved by
- g. Date of act for which Award is recommended
- h. Location of act or mission for which Award is recommended
- i. Aerial or Ground Mission
- j. Furnish all information that is applicable in each case, i.e.:

- (1) Nature of Mission
- (2) Type of Aircraft
- (3) Objective
- (4) Mission accomplished
- (5) Elevation
- (6) Injuries to personnel and/or aircraft
- (7) Was act for which Award is recommended before or after injuries were received?
- (8) Others recommended for same act or mission
- (9) Did act result in
 - (1) Saving lives of others
 - (2) Accomplishing vital mission
 - (3) Safety of aircraft?
- (10) Was danger from hostile aircraft or ground fire?
- (11) Damage accomplished
 - (1) To hostile aircraft
 - (2) To ground installations
 - (3) To hostile personnel?
- (12) Danger involved

- (13) Difficulties involved
- (14) Was deed in line of duty or beyond all call of duty?

k. Short summary of act involved with particular reference to courage, skill, or ability displayed.

4. Members of the VIII Air Force Service Command are eligible for all Awards designated in this Memorandum.

5. While it is the desire of the Commanding General VIII A.F.S.C., to properly reward unusual services, care must be taken to be sure the awards are well deserved. Service in line of duty is expected and does not warrant decoration.

6. Omitted [concerns the Legion of Merit.]

26 August 1943: Headquarters VIII Air Force Service Command, APO 633, Memorandum, 210.5 x 220.5, Subject, Decorations and Awards, To C.O. 27th Air Transport Group, RAF Heston, AAF 510, APO 635.³⁵

1. It is desired that all officers and enlisted personnel of this Command, who are qualified, be recommended for appropriate decorations as soon as practicable.

2. It is the duty of the Commanding Officers of all Stations to initiate all recommendations and submit them through your Headquarters for appropriate comment and indorsement. Copies of the forms to be used are attached. Additional copies may be duplicated by your Headquarters for your Command.

3. Omitted (Legion of Merit information).

4. In order to expedite the processing of recommendations especial care should be exercised by the basic unit to insure that (a) all questions on the forms are properly answered and (b) the act or duties for which the recommendation is made, is clearly and completely described.

By command of Major General MILLER:

FRANK ROGERS,
Capt. AGD,
Asst. Adj. Gen.

VIII Air Support Command

20 July 1943: Headquarters VIII Air Support Command Policy Memorandum Number 75-13, Personnel, Military, Awards and Decorations, 20 July 1943.³⁶

³⁵ Headquarters VIII Air Force Service Command, to Commanding Officer of the 27th Air Transport Group at RAF Heston, Decorations and Awards, 26 August 1943, AFHRA Call Number 519.287, 1942-1943, IRIS Number 215465.

³⁶ Headquarters VIII Air Support Command, Office of the Commanding General, APO 638, US Army, Memorandum Number 75-13, Personnel, Military, Awards and Decorations, 20 July 1943, AFHRA Call Number 532.186, 10 Sep 1042-8 Oct 1943.

[NOTE: Only the Silver Star information is reprinted in the below extract.]

Memorandum)
Number 75-13)

20 July 1943

Personnel, Military
Awards and Decorations

1. The following guide concerning recommendations for awards and decorations within the VIII Air Support Command, is published for the information of all concerned.

2. Prompt Recognition. The prompt recognition of heroism or meritorious achievement in time of war is a most important factor towards building and maintaining morale. Such recognition is the responsibility of every commander who is also charged with obtaining, without delay, the necessary evidence to substantiate the recommendation for an award. Failure to so act is the reason why awards are still being made to individuals who served during the First World War or the Spanish-American War.

3. Eligibility. The provisions of AR 600-45; AR 600-48; WD Circular No. 131, 1943; ETOUSA Circular No 36, 5 April 1943; ETOUSA Circular No 43, 11 May 1943; Letters, Headquarters, Eighth Air Force 29 November 1942 and 16 June 1943, govern eligibility for awards and decorations.

4. Awards available:

a. For heroism, gallantry, bravery etc, (in action):

Award	By whom awarded	To whom awarded
(1) Medal of Honor	War Department (In the name of Congress)	Any officer or enlisted man of the army who while in action involving actual conflict with an enemy distinguishes himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty.
(2) Distinguished Service Cross	CG, ETOUSA	To persons serving in any capacity with the Army who Distinguish themselves by Extraordinary heroism in Connection with military Operations against an armed Enemy.
(3) Silver Star	CG, Eighth Air Force	To each officer or enlisted man who is cited for gallantry in action in orders published by Eighth Air Force Hq, which citation does not warrant The award of the Medal of Honor or

the Distinguished Service Cross.

[NOTE: Rest of paragraph 4 is omitted in this extract as it is not relevant to the Silver Star.]

5. Administration.

a. Recommendations for the award of decorations will be forwarded through military channels to the awarding authority in quadruplicate on the approved form. (Sample copy attached)

b. Omitted (Purple Heart information).

c. In forwarding recommendations for the award of decorations for individual acts of heroism or gallantry, recommending officer will insure that they are accompanied by affidavits of eye witnesses, whose testimony should describe, in their own words, details of the act or acts performed.

d. Recommendations for the award of a decoration when in acts of heroism or gallantry were performed while suffering from wounds as a result of enemy action, will be accompanied by a certificate of a Medical Officer executed to include the following information:

- (1) The nature and extent of the injury sustained.
- (2) The severity of the wounds.
- (3) The extent to which the wounds probably interfered with the performance of duty.
- (4) The degree of pain probably suffered by the wounded person, ie, whether moderate, severe or extreme.

e. Changes No 6, AR 600-45, directs publication of awards of decorations in general orders by all commanders authorized to make awards. Three Copies of all such orders will be forwarded to the Adjutant General Washington, DC. 1 copy to Director of Public Relations, Washington, DC. and six copies to this Headquarters, immediately upon issue. Upon actual presentation of the medal a written report, in triplicate, will be forwarded promptly through this Headquarters addressed to Commanding General Eighth Air Force, including name, rank, army serial number, place and date of presentation, and serial number of decoration presented.

f. Facts concerning the award will be entered on Page 6 of the Service record of enlisted men and record of the presentation including medal number and date will be entered under Remarks Administrative. Similar information will be entered under Remarks on WD AGO Form 66-1 for Officers and Warrant Officer.

g. (1) A letter substantially as follows will be issued each recipient of a decoration or award who is not furnished the medal or only receives a ribbon in lieu thereof:

“Subject: Award of _____
(Name of Medal)

To: The Quartermaster General, Washington, DC.

1. This letter is issued in lieu of a _____ awarded to _____,
But not presented.

2. This officer (soldier) is entitled to an _____.”

(2) The recipient will be instructed to present this letter to a Post, Camp or Station Quartermaster, who will issue the medal, and to relinquish the letter only when the medal is received.

By command of Brigadier General CANDEE:

L R Garrison,
Colonel, AGD,
Adjutant General

1 Incl:

Incl 1 – Form for recommendations of Awards and Decorations.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS
TO BE SUBMITTED THOROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS.

- (a) Name
- (b) Present Rank and Organization
- (c) Present Serial Number
- (d) Grade and Serial Number at time of act for which award is recommended
- (e) Name and address of nearest relative
- (f) Address at time of appointment
- (g) Place of enlistment
- (h) Awards previously made
- (i) Awards recommended
- (j) By Commanding Officer of _____
- (k) Approved by
- (l) Date of act for which award is recommended
- (m) Location of act or mission for which award is recommended
- (n) Aerial or Ground Mission
- (o) Furnish information that is applicable in this case:
 - (1) Nature of Mission
 - (2) Type of Aircraft
 - (3) Objective
 - (4) Mission accomplished
 - (5) Elevation
 - (6) Injuries to personnel and/or aircraft
 - (7) Was act for which award is recommended before or after injuries were received?
 - (8) Others recommended for same act or mission
 - (9) Did act result in
 - (1) Saving lives of others?
 - (2) Accomplishing vital mission?
 - (3) Safety of aircraft?
 - (10) Was danger from hostile aircraft or ground fire?
 - (11) Damage accomplished
 - (1) To hostile aircraft
 - (2) To ground installations
 - (3) To hostile personnel
 - (12) Danger involved

- (13) Difficulties involved
- (14) The deed was for: (indicate by check mark)
 - a. Congressional Medal – Heroism beyond all call of duty.
 - b. DSC – Extraordinary Heroism in Action.
 - c. DSM – Exceptionally Meritorious Service in Duty of great responsibility.
 - d. Silver Star – Gallantry in Action.
 - e. DFC – Heroism or Extraordinary Achievement on an aerial flight.
 - f. Air Medal – Meritorious Achievement on an aerial flight.
 - g. Soldier’s Medal – Heroism not in action against the enemy.
 - h. Legion of Merit – Outstanding Achievement in a duty not necessarily of great responsibility.
- (15) Has the entire service of this person since the rendition by him of the service upon which the recommendation is based, been honorable?

(p) Short summary of act involved with particular reference to courage, skill, or ability displayed.

(Name)
(Rank)

(Signature of officer who has personal knowledge of the truth of above statements or was an eye witness.)

If officer signing recommendation does not have personal knowledge of the act or was not an eye witness, signed affidavits by two eye witnesses must accompany all recommendations.

2 August 1943: Headquarters VIII Air Support Command Policy Memorandum Number 75-13A, Personnel, Military, Awards and Decorations, 2 August 1943, Amendment to Paragraph 5 of VIII Air Support Command Memorandum 75-13, 20 July 1943:³⁷

MEMORANDUM) 2 August 1943
NUMBER 75-13A)

PERSONNEL, MILITARY
AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Paragraph 5, VIII Air Support Command Memorandum 75-13, 20 July 1943 is amended by adding:

“5. Administration
* * * * *

h. In preparing recommendation forms for decorations and awards (Inclosure #1), it is desired that:

- (1) The names of all other members of the airplane crew who are being recommended for any decoration for acts performed while on this mission, other than automatic awards, be listed indicating the decoration recommended.

³⁷ Headquarters VIII Air Support Command, Office of the Commanding General, APO 638, US Army, Memorandum Number 75-13A, Personnel, Military, Awards and Decorations, 2 August 1943, AFHRA Call Number 532.186, 10 Sep 1042-8 Oct 1943.

(2) The entry should be made on line (o), (8): "Others recommended for the same act or mission."

By command of Brigadier General CANDEE

L R. Garrison,
Colonel, AGD,
Adjutant General

7 August 1943: Headquarters VIII Air Support Command Policy Memorandum Number 75-13B, Personnel, Military, Awards and Decorations, 7 August 1943, Amendment to Paragraph 4 of VIII Air Support Command Memorandum 75-13, 20 July 1943.³⁸

MEMORANDUM)
NUMBER 75-13B)

7 August 1943

PERSONNEL, MILITARY
AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

1. Memorandum 75-13, 20 July 1943, is amended as follows:
4. Omitted (deals with the Legion of Merit).
5. Administration

a. Recommendations for the award of decorations will be forwarded through military channels to the awarding authority in quadruplicate. For the award of decorations other than the Distinguished Service Medal and Legion of Merit, the form headed "Recommendation for Awards and Decorations to be submitted through Military Channels" (Appendix #1), will be used. Distinguished Service Medal and Legion of Merit recommendations will be submitted on form titled "Recommendation for the Award of the Distinguished Service Medal or the Legion of Merit" (Appendix #2). Paragraph "m" of the recommendation form for DSM and Legion of Merit will be filled in with detailed description for the service rendered, and will be accompanied by a proposed citation.

By command of Brigadier General CANDEE:

L R. Garrison,
Colonel, AGD,
Adjutant General.

Added:

Appendix 2. Recommendation for Award of DSM or Legion of Merit Form [NOTE: Omitted from this extract, as it is not relevant to the Silver Star Medal].

³⁸ Headquarters VIII Air Support Command, Office of the Commanding General, APO 638, US Army, Memorandum Number 75-13B, Personnel, Military, Awards and Decorations, 7 August 1943, AFHRA Call Number 532.186, 10 Sep 1042-8 Oct 1943.

Ninth Air Force

8 April 1944: Policy Memorandum Number 35-18D, 8 April 1944, Personnel Military, Awards and Decorations:³⁹

MEMORANDUM)

8 April 1944.

NO. 35-18D)

Personnel Military Awards and Decorations

Paragraph 1, Section II, Memorandum Number 35-18,
this headquarters, dated 20 December 1943, is
amended to include the following subparagraph:

1.

* * * * *

m. For the purpose of maintaining uniformity in the preparation of recommendations for awards, it is desired that Inclosure 1 be used for recommendations for the Medal of Honor, DSC, DSM, and Legion of Merit; Inclosure 2 for recommendations for the Silver Star, DFC, Soldiers Medal, and Air Medal for achievement; and Inclosure 3 for the automatic award of the Air Medal.

By Command of Major General BRERETON:

V H Strahm
Brig Gen, USA,
C of S.

Inclosure 2:

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS TO BE SUBMITTED THOROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS.

- (a) Name
- (b) Present Rank and Organization
- (c) Present Serial Number
- (d) Grade and Serial Number at time of act for which award is recommended
- (e) Name and address of next of kin
- (f) Address at time of appointment
- (g) Place of enlistment
- (h) Awards previously made
- (i) Awards recommended
- (j) By Commanding Officer of _____
- (k) Approved by
- (l) Date of act for which award is recommended
- (m) Location of act or mission for which award is recommended

³⁹ Headquarters Ninth Air Force, Memorandum No. 35-18D, 8 April 1944, Personnel Military, Awards and Decorations, AFHRA Call Number 533.186, Mar 1944.

(n) Aerial or Ground Mission

(o) Furnish information that is applicable in this case:

(1) Nature of Mission

(2) Type of Aircraft

(3) Objective

(4) Mission accomplished

(5) Elevation

(6) Injuries to personnel and/or aircraft

(7) Was act for which award is recommended before or after injuries were received?

(8) Others recommended for same act or mission

(9) Did act result in (1) Saving lives of others?

(2) Accomplishing vital mission?

(3) Safety of aircraft?

(10) Was danger from hostile aircraft or ground fire?

(11) Damage accomplished (1) To hostile aircraft

(2) To ground installations

(3) To hostile personnel

(12) Danger involved

(13) Difficulties involved

(14) Has the entire service of this person since the rendition by him of the service upon which the recommendation is based, been honorable?

(p) Short summary of act involved with particular reference to courage, skill, or ability displayed.

(q) Suggested citation:

(Name)

(Rank)

(Signature of officer who has personal knowledge of the truth of above statements or was an eye witness.)

(If officer signing recommendation does not have personal knowledge of the act or was not an eye witness, signed affidavits by two eye witnesses must accompany recommendation.)

29 June 1944: Letter, Major Harry E. Koch, Ninth Air Force Assistant Adjutant General to Commanding Generals of subordinate units, subject: Awards and Decorations, 29 June 1944:⁴⁰

1. It has been noted that recommendations for awards submitted to this headquarters have frequently described wounds and injuries sustained in action as "serious" when the official status of the personnel concerned was otherwise.

2. It is requested that particular care be exercised to insure that the description of the status of battle casualties contained in recommendations for awards be in conformity with the official status of the personnel concerned as contained in reports of battle casualties.

⁴⁰ Letter, Major Harry E. Koch, Ninth Air Force Assistant Adjutant General to Commanding Generals of the IX Air Force Service Command, IX Air Defense Command, IX Bomber Command, IX Engineer Command, XIX Tactical Air Command, IX Tactical Air Command, IX Troops Carrier Command, subject: Awards and Decorations, 29 June 1944, AFHRA Call Number 519.287, Nov 1943-jun 1944, IRIS Number 215467.

3. Recommendations for the award of the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, and Silver Star will, in those cases where wounds or injuries sustained in action may have some bearing upon the decision of the reviewing board, contain a statement of wounds submitted by a medical officer having knowledge of the case.

By command of Lieutenant General BRERETON:

HARRY E KOCH,
Major, A C.,
Asst Adj Gen.

Mediterranean Theater

12 May 1945: Headquarters Mediterranean Theater of Operations, United States Army Circular Number 73, Awards and Decorations, 12 May 1945.⁴¹

CIRCULAR)

NUMBER 73)

12 May 1945

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

[NOTE: Only Silver Star material will be reproduced in the below.]

Circular Number 89; Section I, Circular Number 90; Section III, Circular Number 92; Section II, Circular Number 96; Sections II and III, Circular Number 108; Section II, Circular Number 117; Section I, Circular Number 125; Section II, Circular Number 131; Section II, Circular Number 135; and Section I, Circular Number 136, 1944 series, are rescinded, and the following substituted therefor:

1. Authority to Award.

a. Under the provisions of paragraph 8, AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Theater Commander hereby delegates his authority to award United States military decorations as follows:

(1)-(3) Omitted.

(4) Silver Star

(a) For awards to United States military personnel: Commander of any force commanded by or the appropriate command of a Major General or higher.

(b) For immediate combat award to members of the French, Brazilian, Polish, Yugoslav and Italian Armed Forces: Commanding Generals 15th Army Group, Fifth Army and Army Air Forces, ETO.

[Rest of paragraph 1 through 6 are omitted since they do not address the Silver Star Medal.]

7. Recommendations.

⁴¹ Circular, Headquarters Mediterranean Theater of Operations, United States Army, APO 512, Circular Number 73, Awards and Decorations, 12 May 1945, AFHRA Call Number WG-51-SU-AW, 1944.

- a. Recommendations for all awards which must be acted upon by the Theater Commander, together with supporting papers, will be forwarded so as to reach this headquarters in duplicate.
- b. Particular emphasis should be placed on the recommendation and the detailed facts contained therein, with the accompanying citation being a concise summary of the recommendation.
- c. Each recommendation will list all previous awards made to the individual or unit, including designation of the headquarters and general order number announcing the award.
- d. Grade and assignment at the time service was rendered, as well as the grade and assignment at the time recommendation is made, must be shown. If the recommendation is being resubmitted, that fact will be shown.
- e. Recommendations will be submitted in a manner similar to that shown in Appendix "B" and forwarded through proper command channels. Each commander will personally sign the recommendation, indicating his recommended approval or disapproval.
- f. Recommendations are properly the concern of the initiating officer, each commander in the chain of command, and the awarding authority.
- g. The intended recipient will not be informed of the existence of such a recommendation.
- h. A recommendation which is administratively correct, and which is approved or disapproved for award, should be filed at the headquarters of the office authorized to take final action, and the recommending unit or agency notified by letter of the action taken.
- i. Time Limitations:
- (1) Normally, a recommendation for an award will be processed to reach this headquarters not later than thirty (30) days from the date of its initiation. If, when any recommendation is being forwarded, it is apparent that it will not arrive at this headquarters in less than thirty (30) days from the date of its initiation, it will be accompanied by an explanation as to the reasons for the delay.
- (2) All recommendations for awards will be initiated within three (3) months of the date of performance of the act or completion of the services on which the recommendations are based. Any recommendation initiated after the lapse of more than three (3) months from the date of performance of the act or completion of the services on which it is based will be accompanied by an explanation giving reasons for the delay.
- j. Unless otherwise directed, at least fifty percent (50%) of all recommendations will be for enlisted men.
- k. Recommendations for awards both combat and non-combat to British Ground Force personnel, and non-combat awards to all foreign personnel, all grades, will be forwarded to this headquarters. (Except for Canadians, no recommendations for the award of the Air Medal, or for any posthumous award will be initiated for British personnel).

8. Publications in orders.

a. Paragraph 4, Section I, AR 600-45, directs that awards of decorations made by authorized commanders be announced in general orders of their commands. Such announcement will include name, army serial number, grade, arm or service, organization, date(s), and the general geographic locality where the action occurred for which the award is made. The home address at the time of entry into the service or entry into the United States Military Academy will be shown. In cases of posthumous, missing in action, or prisoner of war awards, the full name, relationship, and address of the next of kin will be included in the general orders.

b. (Omitted, Purple Heart guidance.)

c. The commanding general of the command will establish pertinent policies concerning the type of information which should be omitted from the citation as published in general orders and furnished the individual. Copies of the general orders furnished this headquarters and the War Department will contain all of the information required in sub-paragraph a, above.

d. General orders will be classified RESTRICTED and in addition to the three (3) copies required by the War Department, one (1) copy of all general orders will be furnished this headquarters marked: Attention, Personnel Division, Adjutant General Section. The three (3) copies for the War Department will be forwarded promptly direct to The Adjutant General, Attention: Decorations and Awards Branch, Munitions Building, Washington 25, D.C. One (1) copy of the complete citation pertaining to the award of the Bronze Star Medal will be forwarded to The Adjutant General with each three (3) copies of the general orders announcing the awards. Complete citations will not be included in general orders announcing awards of the Bronze Star Medal.

e. The individual may be furnished complete official citations which are edited to overcome security objections. These official copies will not be classified. It is not necessary to prepare letter orders. A copy of the citation to the individual will suffice.

f. Medal numbers will not be published.

9. Presentation.

a. As prompt recognition of services increases the value of awards, every effort will be made to expedite their presentation. (The Purple Heart will be presented immediately after eligibility has been determined).

b. No separate requite to present a decoration awarded to any individual posthumously, missing in action, or prisoner of war will be sent to The Adjutant General or other headquarters, and under no circumstances will medals be forwarded. The War Department will make presentation to the next of kin upon receipt of general orders announcing such awards, forwarded in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 8 d, above.

c. Should an individual to whom an award has been made, depart prior to presentation, a report will be forwarded without delay direct to the organization, within this theater, to which the recipient was transferred. Included in this category are individuals transferred to replacement depot for transshipment to the United States, in which case the report will be forwarded direct to the depot concerned. In those cases where it is definitely known that the

recipient had actually departed this theater, the report will be forwarded, through channels, to this headquarters setting forth the reason for the individual's departure to enable this headquarters or the War Department to dispose promptly and accurately of correspondence.

10. Awards to be noted in Records.

a. Awards of decorations, dates, and places of presentation will be noted in the historical records of organizations and in the service records of enlisted men, and for all others on WD AGO Form No 66-1 and 66-2 (Officer's and Warrant Officer's Qualification Card), also where applicable in appropriate personnel files and efficiency records. This will include entries pertaining to eligibility of individuals to wear appropriate Service Medals, Bronze Service Stars, Bronze Star for the American Defense Service Medal, Expert and Combat Infantryman Badges, Distinguished Unit Badge, and all other badges. Unit commanders will cause a periodic check to be made of such records to see that necessary entries are made for personnel now present in their organization.

b. In cases where the individual's personnel records are not available, entry of the award of the Purple Heart will be made on his Emergency Medical Tag or Report Card (WD MD Form No 52) citing the authority for the award. The award will be announced in orders and in addition to the distribution required in paragraph 9, above, one (1) copy will be furnished the individual and the individual's unit commander.

11. Acceptance of Awards from Cobelligerent Nations (omitted).

By command of General MCNARNEY:

GEORGE D. PENCE
Major General, GSC
Chief of Staff

Appendix "B" to
HQ MTOUSA Cir #73

Model Form

201_____

Date_____

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award.

TO:

1. Under the provisions of _____ it is recommend that (NAME), (ASN), (GRADE), (ARM OR SERVICE), (ORGANIZATION) (Including staff section if on duty with a headquarters), be awarded the ____ (appropriate award – see reverse side), for _____ (appropriate remark – see reverse side).

2. Complete description of action: In case of service awards such as Legion of Merit, a complete description of service rendered in detail should be listed. In recommendation for other awards, a detailed and factual description of the incident is of utmost importance. Do not use general statements. The most common error in recommendations is that they do not contain enough detail.

3. In recommendations for combat decorations, specific information should be included as nearly as is reasonably possible, regarding each of the following (using operations, maps, narrative statement, or any other convenient form):

- a. Character of the terrain, of hostile observations, and of enemy fire.
- b. Visibility, time of day, and atmospheric conditions.
- c. Location of enemy.
- d. Morale, that of our forces and that of the enemy.
- e. Casualties sustained.
- f. Effect or results of deed in question, etc. (Not applicable to Legion of Merit).

4. Statements as to personal knowledge of the initiating officer. If he has no personal knowledge of the incident or service rendered, two affidavits from eye witnesses or persons having knowledge must be inclosed.

5. Each basic recommendation for the award of a decoration will show the exact status of the person who is being recommended at the time of rendition by him of the service upon which the recommendation is base. Grade and assignment at the time of this incident or a the time service was rendered as well as the grade and assignment at the time recommendation is made.

6. Statement that entire subsequent service of individual since performance of act cited has been honorable. In case of Distinguished Service Medal or Legion of Merit recommendation, statement that the individual ahs completed his service in the position, or that it was substantially complete at time he was transferred to other duty should be added.

7. List of previous awards to include general order number and headquarters of issue.

8. Proposed Citation, which will include: a. Name, ASN, Arm or Service, Grade, Organization, period of time (inclusive dates) of service rendered, and the general or specific locality or campaign.

b. A condensation of the letter or recommendation including all pertinent facts upon which award is based. When an award is made, only the citation is published in orders; therefore, a resume of the act or service rendered must be in sufficient detail to justify the award.

c. The last sentence will include the individual's home town and state at time of enlistment, induction, entry into West Point, or present home address. (In cases of Posthumous, Missing in Action, or Prisoner of War awards, include name and relationship of nearest relative, house number, street or rural route, city and state.)

(Name)
(Grade & Organization)
(Commanding or Official Designation)

(Forward through proper command channels. Each commander will personally sign the recommendation, indicating his recommended approval or disapproval)

REVERSE SIDE (Only Silver Star Medal information is shown, below)

Silver Star: Gallantry in action.

Northwest African Air Forces

19 April 1943: Headquarters Northwest African Air Forces Awards Recommendation Sample for ground and flying personnel:⁴²

19 April 1943

The following citations are offered to Group and Squadron commanders as examples which can be adapted in making recommendations for decorations for ground and flying personnel:

[NOTE: Only Silver Star related material is used in this extract.]

SILVER STAR

_____, _____, First Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army. For heroism and outstanding achievement in the destruction of three enemy aircraft in aerial combat while participating in a flight in North Africa. _____ shot down three enemy planes consisting of one JU-87 and two JU-52's during a combination bomber-fighter sweep against enemy shipping and enemy transport planes on ___ April 1943, north of _____, Tunisia. Lt _____ has twenty-three sorties over enemy territory to his credit, the majority of them over two and one-half hours. As Flight Leader, he has displayed a high degree of dependability, resourcefulness, flying skill, and courage, which reflect great credit upon himself and the Military Service of the United States.

Major __, ___th Squadron, ___rd Fighter Group, United States Army. April ____ after completing a bomber escort mission, the pilots of this group intercepted a formation of enemy Stukas and fighters. In the ensuing combat, Major _____ destroyed two ME 109's. The courage and professional skill shown by this pilot reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Services of the United States.

For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. Sergeant _____ displayed exceptional bravery and coolness in action by operating a machine gun, by himself, from the door of a troop carrier airplane while in flight, on the afternoon of ___ November 1942 in North Africa. Although seriously wounded in the foot, he dropped to the floor of the airplane and continued firing at the enemy aircraft. He continued to fire until he was wounded in the head and lost consciousness. The courage and heroism displayed by Sergeant _____ reflect the greatest credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States.

_____, (Army Serial Number _____) Technical Sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. On ___ November 1942, two transport planes, each loaded with 4500 pounds of high explosives, landed about dusk at an airport near the front line. Immediately after dark the field was bombed by enemy planes. The first shower of incendiaries completely illuminated the

⁴² Headquarters, Northwest African Air Forces, APO 650, 19 April 1943 pamphlet, AFHRA subject file, "Awards, WWII DFC/Air Medal Monograph."

field, and the second shower fell directly on and around these two planes. The presence of incendiaries made the immediate vicinity extremely dangerous. Technical Sergeant _____ with complete disregard for his personal safety proceeded to extinguish the incendiary bombs. In the morning, the area was found littered with dirt covered incendiaries, many of which were under the airplanes. In all probability both planes with their valuable cargo would have been destroyed, had it not been of the courageous action of Technical Sergeant _____. The courage and heroism displayed reflect a great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.

For gallantry in action against an armed enemy of the United States, 23 January 1943. After making a crash-landing in the seas ½ mile from shore Sergeant _____ displayed great courage and skill in saving the life of Lieutenant _____, co-pilot whose life-preserver had been made useless by enemy flak. At great personal risk and danger, Sergeant _____ brought the co-pilot ashore. The next day he assisted in carrying Lieutenant _____ on a stretcher over fifteen (15) miles of mountainous terrain to a Red Cross field station. His actions reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.

For gallantry in action against an armed enemy of the United States on ____ January 1943. After being seriously wounded in the leg by a 20 MM. cannon shell, Sergeant _____ displayed exceptional skill and courage by staying with his guns until the attacking aircraft was repulsed. This done, he discovered a fire burning in the bomb bay of his airplane. Although partially crippled by his wound and suffering intense pain, Sergeant _____ crawled almost the length of the fuselage to get the fire extinguisher. He then crawled back, extinguished the fire, and informed the pilot of the injury. This action may have saved the plane and the lives of this fellow crewmembers. Such heroism and gallantry reflect great credit upon himself and the Military Service of the United States.

Twelfth Air Force

29 November 1942: Headquarters Twelfth Air Force Office of the Commanding General Policy Letter, Awards and Decorations, 29 November 1942:⁴³

210.5

29 November 1942

SUBJECT: Awards and Decorations

TO: Commanding Generals, XII Air Force Service Command,
XII Bomber Command,
XII Fighter Command,
XII Air Support Command
Commanding Officers, HQ & HQ SQ Twelfth Air Force
412th Signal Company (AVN)
3rd Photo Group

1. The following guide concerning recommendations for awards and decorations within the Twelfth Air Force is published for the information of all concerned:

⁴³ Headquarters Twelfth Air Force, Office of the Commanding General, Policy Letter, 29 November 1942, Subject: Awards and Decorations, to Commanding Generals of subordinate commanders within 12AF, HQ & HQ SQ Twelfth Air Force, 412th Signal Company (AVN) and 3rd Photographic Group, AFHRA Call Number 650.287-1, Jan-Mar 1943, IRIS Number 245805.

[NOTE: All information not relating to the Silver Star is omitted from this extract.]

Award	By whom awarded	To whom awarded and acts of heroism, gallantry, service or achievement for which award is authorized.
Silver Star	CG, Twelfth Air Force	To each officer or enlisted man who is cited for gallantry in action in orders published by Twelfth Air Force Headquarters or a Higher Headquarters, which citation does not warrant the award of the Medal of Honor or the Distinguished Service Cross.

By command of Major General DOOLITTLE:

P.M. WHITNEY
Colonel, A.G.D.,
Asst. Adjutant General.

Attachment 1:

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS
TO BE SUBMITTED THOROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS.

- (a) Name
- (b) Present Rank and Organization
- (c) Present Serial Number
- (d) Grade and Serial Number at time of act for which award is recommended
- (e) Name and address of next of kin
- (f) Address at time of appointment
- (g) Place of enlistment
- (h) Awards previously made
- (i) Awards recommended
- (j) By Commanding Officer of _____
- (k) Approved by
- (l) Date of act for which award is recommended
- (m) Location of act or mission for which award is recommended
- (n) Aerial or Ground Mission
- (o) Furnish information that is applicable in this case:
 - (1) Nature of Mission
 - (2) Type of Aircraft
 - (3) Objective
 - (4) Mission accomplished
 - (5) Elevation
 - (6) Injuries to personnel and/or aircraft
 - (7) Was act for which award is recommended before or after injuries were received?
 - (8) Others recommended for same act or mission
 - (9) Did act result in
 - (1) Saving lives of others?
 - (2) Accomplishing vital mission?
 - (3) Safety of aircraft?
 - (10) Was danger from hostile aircraft or ground fire?
 - (11) Damage accomplished
 - (1) To hostile aircraft

- (2) To ground installations
- (3) To hostile personnel
- (12) Danger involved
- (13) Difficulties involved
- (14) Was deed in line of duty or beyond all call of duty?
- (15) Has the entire service of this person since the rendition by him of the service upon which the recommendation is based, been honorable?
- (p) Short summary of act involved with particular reference to courage, skill, or ability displayed.

(Name)
(Rank)

(Signature of officer who has personal knowledge of the truth of above statements or was an eye witness.)

If officer signing recommendation does not have personal knowledge of the act or was not an eye witness, signed affidavits by two eye witnesses must accompany recommendation.

1 March 1943: Headquarters Twelfth Air Force Office of the Commanding General Policy Letter, Awards and Decorations, 1 March 1943:⁴⁴

210.5

1 March 1943

SUBJECT: Awards and Decorations

TO: Commanding Generals, XII Bomber Command,
XII Air Force Service Command
XII Air Support Command
XII Fighter Command,
Commanding Officer, 3rd Photographic Group
Brigadier General John K. Cannon, c/o NATC
Brigadier General Elwood R. Quesada, c/o NACAF

1. All previously issued directives published by the Twelfth Air Force, relative to Awards and Decorations, are rescinded.

2. The following guide concerning recommendations for awards and decorations for the United States Army Air Force personnel within the Twelfth Air Force is published for the information of all concerned:

[NOTE: All information not relating to the Silver Star is omitted from this extract.]

Award	By whom awarded	To whom awarded and acts of heroism, gallantry, service or achievement for which award is authorized.
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⁴⁴ Headquarters Twelfth Air Force, Office of the Commanding General, Policy Letter, 1 March 1943, Subject: Awards and Decorations, to Commanding Generals of subordinate commands within 12AF, Commanding Officer, 3rd Photographic Group, Brigadier General John K. Cannon, c/o. NATC, Brigadier General Elwood R. Quesada, c/o NACAF, AFHRA Call Number 650.287-1, Jan-Mar 1943, IRIS Number 245805.

Silver Star	Comdrs with rank of Brig-Gen, or Comdrs of Forces appropriate to that the grade and higher Hq. Colonels or Higher Grade of co-Belligerent Forces. (By WD Thru NATOUSA)	Any person while serving in any capacity with the United States Army who is cited for gallantry in action in orders published by Twelfth Air Force Headquarters or a higher headquarters, which citation does not warrant the award of the Medal of Honor or the Distinguished Service Cross.
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By command of Major General SPAATZ:

T.J. BROGAN,
Colonel, A.G.D.,
Asst. Adjutant General.

Fifteenth Air Force

XV Fighter Command

26 September 1944: Memorandum, Headquarters XV Fighter Command (Prov), Memorandum Number 35-5, Awards and Decorations, 26 September 1944.⁴⁵

[NOTE: Only Silver Star Medal relevant information is produced, below.]

SECTION I – The Writing of Recommendations for Awards and Decorations.

1. Necessity for correctness in form of recommendation. Awards are approved by various echelons of command. Therefore, recommendations for different awards must be forwarded in either four (4) or six (6) copies. Recommendations for the Air Medal, Bronze Star, Soldier's Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Silver Star should be forwarded to reach this Headquarters in four (4) copies.

* * * * *

All recommendations must have a letter of transmittal attached, stating briefly the authority for the award, the name, rank and serial number of the individual and the award proposed. This must be signed by the Group Commander. All recommendations must be properly numbered in pencil in the lower left corner. The narrative should be labeled in Capital Letters "NARRATIVE" the citation "PROPOSED CITATION." Witnessing officers should sign all copies of the recommendation in the place designated. The proposed citation and narrative should not be signed.

2. Necessity for accuracy of recommendation. It is advisable that an individual at Group Headquarters who is familiar with procedure used in writing recommendations check all recommendations before they are forwarded to this Headquarters. Recommendations must not

⁴⁵ Policy Memorandum, XV Fighter Command Memorandum Number 35-5, Awards and Decorations, 26 September 1944, AFHRA Call Number 672.186, Sep 1944 through May 1945.

contain incomplete sentences, misspellings, incorrect serial numbers, and inaccuracies in the names of individuals. The person appointed to check the recommendations should not be the writer of the recommendation; it is often difficult for the writer to see his own mistakes.

SECTION II – Standard Practice in Preparation.

1. Certain phrases and forms have become standard in writing recommendations. These must be observed exactly and without variation.

a.- d. Omitted from this extract.

e. Silver Star – The opening phrase of the citation for the Silver Star should read: “For gallantry in action as pilot of a P- type aircraft in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations.” The citation, approximately two-hundred (200) words long, should emphasize gallantry in action, not relate extraordinary achievement in flight or the routine action of a mission.

f. –g. Omitted from this extract.

SECTION III – Care in Preparation of Recommendations.

1. Actions worthy of decoration should have recommendations that do them credit.

Recommendations will not attempt by mere verbiage to dress up routine actions as deserving of the Bronze Star, Distinguished Flying Cross or Silver Star. Recommendations must distinguish between actions of “extraordinary achievement” that deserve the Distinguished Flying Cross and actions of “gallantry” that deserve the Silver Star. Care must be exercised that narratives and citations are not written in either such lifeless or flamboyant phrases or contain so much extraneous matter that they subtract from the worth of the action. Citations and narratives should be written directly and simply, letting the facts themselves recommend the award.

2. This Headquarters will closely check all recommendations received. Recommendations showing evidence of carelessness and wholesale production will be returned for rewriting. Only the most minor of corrections will be made by this Headquarters.

By command of Brigadier General STROTHER:

RICHARD A. LEGG,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Executive Officer.

China-Burma-India Theater

Army Air Forces, India-Burma Sector

1 September 1944: Policy Memorandum, Headquarters Army Air Forces, India-Burma Sector, China-Burma-India Theater, APO 671, Awards and Decorations, 1 September 1944.⁴⁶

⁴⁶ Policy Memorandum, Headquarters Army Air Forces, India-Burma Sector, China-Burma-India Theater, APO 671, Memorandum AAF 75-2, Personnel, Military, Awards and Decorations, 1 September 1944, AFHRA subject file “Awards, WWII DFC/Air Medal Monograph.”

1 September 1944

PERSONNEL, MILITARY
Awards and Decorations

(This Memorandum supersedes AAF Memoranda 75-2, 75-45, 75-45A and 75-45B, This Headquarters, dated 2 March 1943, 15 December 1942, 30 June 1943 and 31 January 1944, respectively).

INDEX

[NOTE: Only Silver Star Medal information is shown in this extract.]

<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page</u>
1.	General	1
2.	Procedure for Forwarding of Recommendations	2
3.	Required Information	2
4. (Omitted)		
5.	Silver Star	4
6-11 (Omitted)		
12.	Affidavits of Eye Witnesses	8
13.	Personnel Who May Sign Recommendations	9

1. GENERAL. This memorandum is intended to supplement Circulars Number 55 and 62, headquarters, United States Army Forces, China-Burma-India, A.P.O. 885, dated 29 May 1944 and 9 June 1944, respectively, as well also to consolidate previous instructions of this Headquarters on Awards and Decorations. In cases where a subject is not covered in this Memorandum, the Circulars cited above will be consulted.

2. PROCEDURE FOR FORWARDING OF RECOMMENDATIONS. a. Recommendations for awards of the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit and awards to civilians (as contained in AR 600-45, 22 September 1943) will be forwarded by the various commands, through channels, to the respective headquarters for final action except in the case of the Purple Heart which is covered in paragraph 11e, below.

b. The Commanding Generals, Tenth Air Force; China-Burma-India Air Service Command; and Army Air Forces, India-Burma Sector, China-Burma-India Theater, are authorized to award all other decorations listed in paragraph 2, Section I, Army Regulations 600-45, War Department, Washington, D.C., 22 September 1943, as amended by Changes Number 3, 25 April 1944. All recommendations for these awards will be forwarded by the

originating headquarters, through channels, to the respective headquarters for final action except in the case of the Purple Heart which is covered in paragraph 11e , below.

3. REQUIRED INFORMATION. a. All recommendations for award will contain the following information:

- (1) Award recommended.
- (2) A narrative containing full, complete and accurate details of the action performed which caused the initiating headquarters to believe the individual recommended to be deserving of the award.
- (3) Suggested citation. (This will normally be a brief of 3a(2), above, containing the important details but omitting the small, inconsequential details leaving a smooth-flowing text).
- (4) Full name, rank, serial number, branch and date of birth of the individual.
- (5) Exact status and rank of individual at time of rendition of service on which the award is being based.
- (6) (a) Other awards received by individual since 7 December 1941 by General Order Number; Headquarters and date of issue.
(b) Awards recommended previously for individual on which action has not been received by your Headquarters.
- (7) Specific statement that entire service of the individual has been honorable since completion of the service for which recommended.
- (8) Home address.
- (9) Next of kin, relationship and home address.
- (10) State from which appointed or residence at enlistment.

b. Recommendations which do not contain all the information required above will be returned for completion prior to forwarding to higher headquarters.

4. (Omitted, Legion of Merit information).

5. SILVER STAR. a. Recommendations for the award of the Silver Star will contain conclusive evidence that the individual recommended has distinguished himself by gallantry in action not warranting the award of the Medal of Honor or Distinguished Service Cross.

b. Acts of gallantry, either in actual combat or in direct support of combat operations not deemed sufficiently meritorious for the award of the Silver Star will be considered for the award of the Bronze Star Medal (See paragraph 8, below).

6-11 (Omitted).

12. AFFIDAVITS OF EYE WITNESSES. All recommendations for awards for acts of heroism will be substantiated by affidavits of eye witnesses.

13. PERSONNEL WHO MAY SIGN RECOMMENDATIONS. As awards and decorations are a command function, approval of all recommendations and succeeding indorsements will be signed by the commanding general or commanding officer of the organization concerned.

By command of Major General STRATEMEYER:

CHARLES B. STONE, III,

Brig. Gen., U.S. Army,
Chief of Air Staff.

Tenth Air Force

23 January 1945: Memorandum, Headquarters Tenth Air Force, APO 216, 10AF 200.6, Subject, Decorations and Awards, to Commanding Officers, all units and detachments, this Command, 23 January 1945:⁴⁷

10AF 200.6

A.P.O. 216,
23 January 1945.

SUBJECT: Decorations and Awards

TO : Commanding Officers, All Units and Detachments, this Command.

[NOTE: Only Silver Star Medal relevant data will be shown in the extract below.]

Section I - General

1. The following instructions, data and examples are published for your information and guidance, for the information and guidance of all officers of this command concerned with initiating recommendations for U.S. Army awards, and in order that standards may be set within this command for the award thereof.

2. It is realized that a great deal of printed matter, informative and directive in nature, has been issued on the subject of recommendations for and awards of United States Army decorations. However, the majority of such matter has been written from the viewpoint of ground combat. The opinions of subordinate commanders of Air Corps units under this command as to what constitutes "exceptional heroism, "gallantry in action", meritorious service", etc., vary widely. While one commander may consider that because of the relatively great distances between our forces and the enemy in air combat, opportunities for heroism and gallantry in the air rarely occur, another may consider that any individual who enters an airplane and who performs a combat mission therein has performed per se a valorous action.

3. Responsibility for Awards. The existence of a situation in which the greater number of awards are for routine participation in a given number of missions or combat hours is undesirable, and it does not represent a true picture of conditions. Individual acts of heroism, gallantry, meritorious and outstanding achievement are regularly and frequently performed. It is the responsibility of every individual, and particularly of a commanding officer, to be on the alert to recognize such acts and to submit promptly recommendations for award.

4. Method of Recommendation:

a. Recommendations for the award of decorations may be initiated by any officer and will be forwarded through command channels, with the view, either favorable or unfavorable, of each commander through whom they pass, to this headquarters. Recommendations must be

⁴⁷ Policy Memorandum, Headquarters Tenth Air Force, APO 216, 10AF 200.6, to Commanding Officers, All Units and Detachments, this Command, Subject, Decorations and Awards, 23 January 1945, AFHRA Call Number 830.168, Oct 1944-Feb 1945.

based on the statement of an eye witness, preferably the recipient's immediate commander, and must contain a complete and concise description of the service rendered. The foregoing is particularly true in recommendations for awards for heroism in aerial combat, as the latter is often performed under such remote conditions that few or possibly only one observer of the act is available to furnish supporting information.

b. Written testimony will be in the form of certificates or affidavits. Statements of all individuals, military and civilian, who may furnish pertinent information are desired.

c. Each basic recommendation for an award will show the exact status of the person recommended at the time of rendition by him of the service upon which the recommendation is based (flight leader in my squadron, my wing man, etc.).

d. Exact date or dates of the service rendered will be included. In the case of specific acts of heroism the exact hour, day, month, and year will be shown if possible, that appropriate intelligence reports and other operational records may be checked for corroboration.

e. In recommendations for combat decorations, specific information should be included, as fully as possible, regarding the weather, the terrain flown over, the numbers and types of enemy aircraft encountered and their tactical disposition, amount and intensity of enemy ground fire met, the location of the enemy, the casualties sustained by our forces and the enemy's forces, and the results effected by the deed in question.

f. When a recommendation is supported by an official record, such fact will be stated, and a certified true copy of the record involved will be included if possible. If not available, appropriate reference will be made that the record involved may be promptly and accurately identified.

g. A statement to the following effect will be included: "the service of the individual recommended has been honorable subsequent to the date of the act for which recommended."

h. A suggested citation will be included.

i. The home address of the individual recommended, and the next of kin and his or her home address will be included.

j. All other awards received by the individual since 7 December 1941 will be listed, with authority therefor.

k. It is emphasized that the full name, rank, serial number, arm or service and date of birth of the individual for whom award is recommended will be clearly and accurately stated.

Section II – Medal of Honor (omitted).

Section III – Distinguished Service Cross (omitted).

Section IV – Distinguished Service Medal (omitted).

Section V – Legion of Merit (omitted).

Section VI – Silver Star

1. The Silver Star is awarded for gallantry in action not warranting the award of the a Medal of Honor or Distinguished Service Cross.

2. Examples:

a. "For gallantry in action against the enemy. On *** 2nd Lt *** flying as pilot in a formation of heavy bombers that was attacked by an overwhelming force of enemy fighters, suddenly noticed the predicament of his flight leader, who had lost two engines, and was rapidly losing altitude. Pulling his plane from a protected place in the formation, 2nd Lt. *** moved in close behind the flight leader's crippled aircraft and as the enemy swept in for the final kill, interposed his own aircraft in the line of fire and shielded the already doomed plane. Again and again he did this, until overwhelming enemy cannon and machine gun fire caused his plane to disintegrate in violent explosion. The superb gallantry and heroism displayed by this officer on this occasion reflects the greatest credit on the Army Air Forces of the United States."

b. "For gallantry in action. On *** S/Sgt *** liaison pilot, volunteered to attempt a landing in enemy territory and pick up a fighter pilot who had been previously forced down. The field chosen for this dangerous mission was covered with a three-foot foliage of elephant grass, but S/Sgt *** courageously landed his liaison-type plane at the prearranged area. Upon landing, he found the fled under enemy fire. Plans had called for the removal of obstacles and inspection of the terrain prior to takeoff. However, realizing the imminent danger, he picked up the beleaguered fighter pilot at once, with extraordinary skill engineered a takeoff over rough terrain, and completed his assigned mission by returning to his home base. His coolness and quick thinking under fire, his outstanding job of piloting and his gallantry in action behind enemy lines on this occasion reflect credit upon the Army Air Forces of the United States."

[NOTE: The rest of the memorandum deal with other decorations and therefore are omitted.]

Pacific Theater

Headquarters Army Air Forces Pacific Ocean Areas (AAFPOA)

1 November 1944: Headquarters Army Air Forces Pacific Ocean Areas, APO 953, AAFPOA Regulation Number 35-5, Personnel, Military, Awards and Decorations, 1 November 1944.⁴⁸

AAFPOA REGULATION)
NO. 35-5)

1 November 1944

PERSONNEL, MILITARY
Awards and Decorations

Index

Paragraph	Page
1. General	1
2. War Department Decorations	2

⁴⁸ Headquarters Army Air Forces Pacific Ocean Areas Regulation Number 35-5, Personnel, Military, Awards and Decorations, 1 November 1944, AFHRA Call Number 702.196, Sept-Dec 1944.

3. Limitations	2
4. Publishing of Awards	2
5. Wearing of Decorations and Medals	3
6. Individual Decorations	3
7. Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal	3

[NOTE: Only Silver Star relevant materials will be shown, below.]

1. General. Decorations are awarded in recognition of and as a reward for extraordinary, unusual, or outstanding acts or services. They are the visible evidence of such acts or services and are cherished accordingly by the recipients. Properly utilized, they are potent incentives to greater effort and instrumental in building and maintaining moral.

a. Prompt awarding of decorations is highly desirable to stimulate moral and to encourage the efficient execution of the missions assigned to this command.

b. Unit commanders will exercise care in the selection of the personnel recommended for awards. Indiscriminate bestowal of decorations for the superior performance of routine assignments and duties will eventually result in a definite cheapening of the awards in the eyes of the entire Command. While no categorical definitions can be laid down to measure accurately "meritorious achievement," exceptionally meritorious service, "heroism," "gallantry in action," and similar expressions, the qualifications required for each award should indicate to Unit Commanders the essential basis of assessment. It should also be recognized that the element of rank is an important consideration in deciding whether or not a particular accomplishment is meritorious or exceptionally meritorious.

c. The recognition of senior staff officer and flying personnel for outstanding performances of duty and the failure to recognize the less spectacular accomplishments of lower ranking officers and ground crews is not in keeping with the over-all; awards policy contemplated by the War Department. The unusual emphasis on the team work so essential to the complete success of the mission of the Army Air Forces dictates the recognition of all deserving members of the Army Air Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas.

d. The eligibility of any person for the award of a decoration, (civilian or military) is determined by his status (civilian or military) at the time the act was performed or the service rendered.

2. War Department Decorations, in order of precedence:

- a.-d. omitted.
- e. Silver Star
- f.-m. omitted.

3. Limitation. Not more than one of the several decorations authorized by Federal law will be awarded for the same act of heroism or extraordinary achievement. E.O. 4601, 1 March 1927.

4. Publishing of Awards. Awards of decorations made by the War Department are published in War Department General Orders. Awards or decorations made by authorized commanders will be announced in general orders by their commands. Copies of such orders will be forwarded immediately by covering letter, through channels as follows:

- a. Three (3) copies to the Adjutant General, Washington, 25, D.C.
- b. One (1) copy to the Commanding General, Army Air Forces, ATTN: A-2 Division of the Air Staff, Washington, 25, D.C.
- c. Two (2) copies to Commanding General, United States Army Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas, APO 958.

5. Wearing of Decorations and Medals. All commanders, by frequent inspections, will assure themselves that only authorized decorations and service ribbons are worn by members of their Command. The proper order and method of wearing decorations and service ribbons are set forth in Section V, AR 600-40, dated 31 March 1944.

- a. Commanders will assure themselves that personnel records contain proper entries of all decorations to which an individual is entitled. The date and fact that the individual is authorized to wear a decoration will be noted promptly and without exception in WD AGO Form No. 24 (Service Record); WD AGO Form No. 724 (for enlisted WAC personnel); WE AGO Form No. 66-1; 66-2; 66-3; (for officers); and WD AGO Form No. 66-4 (for WAC officers).

6. Individual Decorations. The provisions of Circular No. 32, Headquarters, United States Army Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas, APO 958 dated 17 September 1944 will govern the awarding of the following decorations and awards:

- a.-d. omitted.
- e. Silver Star
- f.-h. omitted.

7. Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal. Omitted.

By command of Lieutenant General HARMON:

J.R. ANDERSEN,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Chief of Staff.

United States Air Forces in the Far East (USAFFE)

27 May 1944: USAFFE Regulations Number 10-50 is published, and mentions the Silver Star Medal in passing.⁴⁹

USAFFE REGULATIONS)

27 May 1944

NO.....10-50)

AWARD OF DECORATIONS

[NOTE: Only Silver Star Medal information is presented below.]

⁴⁹ Regulation, United States Air Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) Regulations Number 10-50, 27 May 1944, Award of Decorations, AFHRA Call Number 704.196, 10 May 1944.

1. General Policy. a. Prompt recognition of meritorious service and acts of heroism is a function of command and a matter calling for the most careful and judicious consideration on the part of military leaders in all echelons. Reward for outstanding service, or for service beyond the call of duty, constitutes a powerful moral factor; for this reason prompt action and acknowledgement is of the utmost importance. Authority which has been delegated to commanders in the field forces to award decorations will not, however, be interpreted as a lowering of well-recognized standards, nor will hasty or ill-considered action be substituted for careful investigation and evaluation of all recommendations.

b. If an act or service does not appear to warrant the award of a decoration but nevertheless does merit official recognition, the commanding officer authorized to award the decoration may issue a letter of commendation.

2. Authorized Decorations and Eligibility.

e. Silver Star. Awarded to persons who, while serving in any capacity with the Army, distinguish themselves by gallantry in action not warranting the award of a Medal of Honor or Distinguished-Service Cross.

3. By Whom Awards Made. Awards of decorations are made by the War Department or by designated commanders, acting for the President. The authority granted to any commander to award decorations (other than the Purple Heart authorizes him to make awards only to individuals permanently assigned to that command, except that immediate combat awards may be made for acts performed by individuals physically present within that command under competent orders. Such commanders are also authorized to take final action on recommendations for acts or services performed while individuals or units were permanently assigned to that command but subsequently transferred or separated therefrom. Awards may be made as follows:

g. By the Commanding Generals, Sixth Army, Fifth Air Force, and United States Army Services of Supply:

- (1) Silver Star
- (2) Soldier's Medal
- (3) Bronze Star Medal

h. Commanders listed in e, f, and g above, may delegate all or any part of their authority to subordinate commanders of any force or command which is commanded by, or the appropriate command of, a major general or higher.

4. Recommendations for Award of Decorations. a. Form. Recommendations for the award of decorations will be submitted separately for each individual in letter form, in triplicate, through United States Army command channels with the view or recommendations, either favorable or unfavorable, of each commander indorsed thereon.

b. Content.

(1) Decorations will ordinarily be awarded on the recommendation of the commanding officer of the regiment or other similar unit. In cases of persons not in a regimental command the recommendation should ordinarily be made by an officer corresponding as nearly as possible to a regimental commander or one of higher command. Recommendations may, however, be initiated by officers of lower rank.

(2) Omitted (DFC and Air Medal information).

(3) Recommendations will be based upon the statement of a person who has personal knowledge or who was an eyewitness, preferably the immediate commander. The service or act must be described specifically and in detail, and when the recommendation is made by a person who has personal knowledge or was an eye-witness, it will be so stated. When the recommendation is made by a person who has not personal knowledge or was not an eye-witness, the testimony, when practicable, of at least two persons who have personal knowledge or were eye-witnesses, and who so describe themselves, will accompany the recommendation.

(a) In cases where the proposed award of a decoration is based on specific acts of heroism or gallantry, the only adequate "personal knowledge" will of necessity be that of an actual eye-witness to those acts. Recommendations for such awards will be accompanied by descriptions of the acts by one or more eye-witnesses, who specifically so state in their certificates or affidavits. No decoration will be awarded on the unverified statement of an individual as to his own acts.

(b) Written testimony will be in the form of certificates or affidavits.

(4) Each basic recommendation for the award of a decoration will show the exact status of the person who is being recommended at the time of rendition by him of the service upon which the recommendation is based.

(5) Each basic recommendation for the award of a decoration will contain a specific statement that the entire service of the person in whose case the recommendation is made, has, since the rendition by him of the service upon which the recommendation is based, been honorable. No decoration shall be awarded or presented to any individual whose entire service subsequent to the time he distinguished himself shall not have been honorable.

(6) In recommendations based upon service which covered an appreciable period of time, information will be included as to the period thereof. The accomplishment of the service for which the award is recommended should have been completed, or it should have progressed to an exceptional degree if the person rendering the service has been transferred to other duties prior to its full accomplishment. Each such recommendation will show assignment during period of the service for which award is recommended, and assignment at time recommendation is forwarded.

(7) Where appropriate, information should be included as to each of the following:

- (a) Character of the terrain
- (b) Character of hostile observation
- (c) Character of enemy fire during period in which deed was performed
- (d) Visibility, time of day, and atmospheric conditions
- (e) Proximity of enemy
- (f) Moral, that of our forces and that of the enemy

(8) When a recommendation is supported by an official record, that fact will be stated, and there will be included in the recommendation such information as will enable identification of such record.

(9) Recommendations of foreign citizens for the Medal for Merit will include certified copy of the person's birth certificate or other adequate evidence of his citizenship.

(10) Each recommendation will contain the name, relationship, and home address of the nearest relative or next-of-kin.

5. Action on Recommendations. Commander through whom recommendations are forwarded will carefully check them for completeness of details listed in paragraph 4 above, and to insure that the act is clearly of a nature to merit the award as described in paragraph 2.

6. How Awards are Published. Awards will be announced in general orders of the headquarters of the commander authorized to make the award.

a. One section of a general order is normally used for the announcement of awards of each decoration. Posthumous awards, and awards to personnel missing in action, are announced in separate sections, for example:

LEION OF MERIT—Posthumous awards(s)
SILVER STAR—Award(s) to Personnel Missing in Action

b. The following forms of announcement will normally be used:

[NOTE: Only the Silver Star announcement is shown in this extract, below.]

(3) Silver Star: By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (Bulletin 43, WD, 1918), a Silver Star is awarded by the Commanding General, (headquarters), to the following name officer:

First Lieutenant RICHAR P. ROE, (0123456), Infantry, United States Army. For gallantry in action at (near) (place) on (date). (Account of action.) Home address: Mr. L.N. Roe (father), (exact address).

c. (1) General Orders announcing awards of decorations will contain no reference to the unit to which individuals is assigned. In lieu of organization, the arm or service only will be indicated, for both officers and enlisted men.

(2) In announcing posthumous awards the phrase "Next of kin" is substituted for "Home address".

(3) Officers and enlisted men will be cited in one alphabetical list when several awards are made under one heading.

(4) The name of the person cited will usually appear in the first and last sentences of the account of the deed or service for which the award is made.

(5) Factual language without exaggeration is appropriate.

7. Distribution of General Orders Announcing Awards of Decorations. Each General Orders announcing awards of decorations will be distributed as follows:

Number of Copies	Send direct to	Method of Transmittal
3	The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C.	WD Essential Official Air Mail
5	The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C.	Ordinary Mail
1	Directory, Bureau Public Relations, War Department, Washington D.C.	WD Essential Official Air Mail
2	General Headquarters, Southwest Pacific Area	Air Mail
3	Headquarters, United States Army Forces In the Far East	Air Mail

8. Presentation of Medals. a. As soon as practicable after an award of decoration, the commander will present the decoration with appropriate ceremony to the recipient.

b. Action on the basis of general orders announcing awards will be taken by the War Department to present posthumous awards or awards in the cases of personnel who are missing in action. No request for presentation non-actual decoration will be forwarded to the Adjutant General or other headquarters. The utmost care will be taken to determine the actual status of each individual at the time the order is published.

9. Supply and Care of Medals. a. The Quartermaster Depot, Base Section No. 3, APO 923, is designated as the central supply agency for medals. Commanders authorized to make awards of decorations will requisition directly on the Quartermaster Depot, Base Section No.3, for such medals as they may award.

(1) Because of the difficulty in maintain sufficient stock of medals, commander will requisition only for the immediate needs and for the minimum reserve to insure prompt presentation of medals upon publication of general orders authorizing awards.

b. Care will be exercised by all officers having custody of decorations to insure that they do not fall into unauthorized hands, and proper record by number will be maintained of each decoration delivered.

10. Additional Pay for Holders of Certain Decorations. [Omitted as it does not pertain to the Silver Star Medal.]

11. Time Limits. a. No decoration or other device in lieu of a decoration (except as provided in paragraph 16 b (3), AR 600-45, and in b below) shall be issued to any person after more than three years from the date of the act justifying the award thereof, nor unless a recommendation was submitted through official channels at the time of the distinguished act or service, or within two years thereafter, nor unless it shall appear from the records of the War Department that such person has so distinguished himself as to be entitled to the award.

b. The Legion of Merit [Omitted as it does not pertain to the Silver Star Medal.].

12. Check List for use in preparing recommendations is attached to this regulation. FEXD 200.6

By command of General MacARTHUR:

R.K. SUTHERLAND,
Lieutenant General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff

[NOTE: Check List not found with above regulation.]

Twentieth Air Force

XX Bomber Command

1 December 1944: XX Bomber Command, Office, Chief of Personnel, Standard Operating Procedure, Awards and Decorations:⁵⁰

[NOTE: This pamphlet discusses awards and decorations in the most general terms and only notes the Silver Star as being one of many decorations available.]

Section I, General Statement:

1. This Standard Operating Procedure is designed as a guide for all lower echelons of this Command in the preparation and processing of recommendations for awards and decorations. By conforming to these instructions, commanding officers will systematize the processing of awards, eliminate considerable correspondence with this Headquarters and expedite the awarding of medals and other decorations.

Section II, Authority and Responsibilities:

2. All awards and decorations recommended or conferred in this Command will conform to the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and XX Bomber Command Memorandum 35043.

a. All persons recommending or processing awards will make themselves thoroughly familiar with the provisions of the cited regulation and memorandum.

b. Strict adherence to the provisions of the basic regulation and memorandum cited above, is necessary to prevent discrepancies and deficiencies which in the past have caused an unnecessary administrative burden on all echelons of command.

c. Attention is invited to paragraph 2 of XX Bomber Command Memorandum 35-43 which requires that all recommendations for awards and decorations be based on actual acts of heroism, extraordinary and meritorious achievement, or performance of unusually outstanding services. For the requirements for each award and decoration, see the cited regulations and paragraph 8 of the cited memorandum.

Section III, Preparation of Recommendations:

3. Recommendations for awards and decorations will be prepared as follows:

⁵⁰ Standard Operating Procedure pamphlet, XX Bomber Command, Office, Chief of Personnel, Awards & Decorations, 1 December 1944, AFHRA Call Number 761.287-1, 1 Dec 1944, IRIS Number 262787.

a. The initiating officer will check paragraph 8 of XX Bomber Command Memorandum 35-43 to make certain that the act or service qualifies the individual for the award being recommended.

b. All recommendations for the Congressional medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Silver Star, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star Medal, and Medal for Merit, or Oka Leaf Cluster to these awards will be in letter form and contain all data required by paragraph 9 b of Memorandum 35-43, this Headquarters.

(1) See Attachment "A" for sample letter of recommendation. Marginal notes are shown in the sample to indicate placing of information necessary in the submission of recommendation. Such marginal notes will not appear on recommendations forwarded to this Headquarters.

(2) Any recommendation which lacks any of the essential information required by paragraph 9 of the cited memorandum, is invalid.

c. In preparing the recommendation, the name, rank and army serial number will be verified in each instance by checking with the WD AGO Form 66-2 or Form 24, as the case may require.

d. The exact status of the individual at the time of submission of the award will be stated. If the individual is deceased or missing, it will be so stated.

e. The record of previous award will be checked with the Form 66-2 or Form 24 and the central award card file provided for in paragraph 6 below.

(1) In each case in which an Oak Leaf Cluster is recommended, the initiating officer will personally ascertain that the individual has already received the basic medal, and will so state, or will plainly state that it has been recommended but not yet awarded.

(2) In listing previous awards, the name of the award, General Orders number, Headquarters of origin and ate will be given.

f. Each officer who signs a recommendation or indorsement thereto, is personally responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the recommendation.

g. Where written statements from individuals other than the person's commanding officer, are offered to substantiate eligibility for an award, such statements will be in the form of certificates of officers or affidavits of enlisted men.

Section IV, Air Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross (Omitted).

Section V, Citations:

5. Each recommendation for an award or decoration, including recommendations for the Air Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross and Oak Leaf Cluster thereto, based on sustained combat and operational flying, will be accompanied by a suggested citation.

a. The suggested citation will be a brief resume of all data necessary to establish conclusively that the individual is entitled to the award. This information need not be a detailed as that required by the narrative used in recommending the decoration, but it will be complete.

(1) Where extraordinary and meritorious achievement is required as a basic qualification for an award, facts conclusively proving that type of achievement will be included in the citation.

(2) Where heroic conduct is required as a basic qualification for an award, evidence of such conduct, rather than a mere statement of it, will be included in the citation.

b. Attention is directed to paragraph 9 d of XX Bomber Command Memorandum 35-43, which provides that greater attention will be placed on the data supporting the recommendation than on the language of the citation.

c. For a sample citation, see Inclosure #1 to Attachment "A".

Section VI, Organization Control Files (Omitted).

Section VII, Processing and Forwarding:

7. Recommendations for awards will be further processed as follows:

a. The recommendation will be checked thoroughly to make certain that the basic act or service establishes eligibility of the award recommended under the provisions of AR 600-45 and paragraph 8 of Memorandum 35-43.

b. Each recommendation will be checked thoroughly to make sure that all information and data required by paragraph 9 of the Memorandum and paragraph 3 and/or paragraph 4 above is included and that necessary inclosures are attached.

(1) Check inclosures for signatures, number, etc.

(2) Check for sufficient number of copies.

c. Group or separate unit Headquarters, forwarding recommendations to this Headquarters, will review the recommendations and will return to the initiating organization those not meeting the requirements specified above. Each such Headquarters will maintain a card control file as indicated in paragraph 6 above.

d. Group or separate unit Headquarters, forwarding recommendations to this Headquarters, will separate and list recommendations by award. (Oak Leaf Clusters will be kept separate from awards to which they pertain).

(1) Recommendations for each award will be arranged alphabetically by rank, and forwarded in that manner.

(2) A separate letter of transmittal listing recommendations alphabetically by rank will be prepared for each award as indicated in Attachment "D" and will accompany the recommendations and allied papers.

Section VIII, Action by Higher Headquarters:

8. This Headquarters will process awards in accordance with current directives and policies.

a. If the award is not favorably considered, the initiating organization will be notified through command channels by indorsement or letter of transmittal.

b. If the award is granted, General Orders will be issued by appropriate Headquarters and copies furnished to the initiating organization through command channels.

Section IX, Maintaining Records:

9. When notification as to final action on each recommendation is received in Group and other Headquarters, action will be taken as follows:

a. If award is granted, proper entries will be made on the control card as indicated in paragraph 6 above, and in other records as required by paragraph 5 of XX Bomber Command Memorandum 35-43.

b. If the award is not favorably considered, proper entry will be made on the control card only.

c. If the individual has entered a status of "missing", "missing in action", or "deceased", between the time the award is granted and published by this or superior Headquarters and before it is presented to the individual, copies of the General Orders will be forwarded to the next of kin, through channels, by Group or separate unit Headquarters. This Headquarters will make necessary arrangements for sending copies of General Orders to the next of kin when personnel are awarded posthumous decorations or are reported "missing" or "missing in action", after being recommended for the award and prior to the time the award is made.

Section X, Reporting:

10. Each Group (or separate unit) will complete the following reports covering awards made to personnel of the unit each month. These reports will be consolidated by the Base for all units and completed so as to reach this Headquarters no later than the 5th of each month.

a. Summary of decorations awarded to U.S. Army personnel, segregated by Arm or Service of the recipient at the time the act was performed, decoration and awarding authority. (See Attachment "E")

(1) Under the column headed "Arm or Service", the number of awards received by Air Corps personnel will be entered in the appropriate box. In the boxers marked "other", awards received by personnel in Arms or Services other than Air Corps will be entered. Each Arm and Service will be designated separately by abbreviation, if awards have been received by any personnel detailed in that Arm or Service. In event awards are received by personnel representing more than two other Arms or Services, the designation of Arm or Service and number will be shown in the space directly below the boxes which have been used.

(2) Under the column headed "Awarding Authority" will be entered the official designation of the Headquarters which made the various awards, preceded by the number of awards by Arm or Service made by that particular Headquarters. Additional pages may be added if necessary to show all Headquarters concerned.

b. Summary of decorations awarded by grade during the month. The grade will be the grade of the recipient at the time he performed the act for which he was decorated. (See Attachment "F", which is self-explanatory).

[NOTE: Attachments are omitted in this extract as they do not specifically address the Silver Star Medal.]

Awards to Royal Air Force Personnel

23 June 1944: European Theater of Operations, United States Army, to Commanding General, USSTAF, subject: Proposed Reciprocal Exchange of Combat Awards between Royal Air Force and United States Army Air Force in United Kingdom, 23 June 1944:⁵¹

1. Reference is made to letters, this headquarters, file and subject as above, dated 4 Dec 1943 and 23 Dec 1943.

2. a. The number of immediate combat awards to Royal Air Force personnel, excluding personnel of Dominion Air Forces other than the South African Air Force, for the period ending 30 June 1944 will not exceed the Air Ministry quota shown below:

Bomber Command	13
Allied Expeditionary Air Force	6
Coastal Command	1

The above quota is the maximum number of immediate combat awards which may be made; all need not be used. In exceptional cases this number may be exceeded but only with prior concurrence from the Air Ministry. The quota allotted for the Allied Expeditionary Air Force will be used for Fighter Command personnel.

b. Awards will be limited to the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal.

c. In accordance with AR 600-45, 22 Sep 1943, as amended, these decorations will be awarded only to personnel below the grade of Colonel or its equivalent rank. The acceptance of such awards will be concurred in by a Royal Air Force Commander of a grade equal to, or higher than, a Brigadier General, United States Army.

3. Any exceptions to the above policy, including recommendations for awards in excess of the above quota from the Air Ministry, will be forwarded to this headquarters. Recommendations involving United States Naval personnel will also be forwarded to this headquarters for reference to the Commander, United States Naval Forces in Europe, prior to approval of the award.

4. Quotas for each six month period will be forwarded as received from the Air Ministry.

⁵¹ Policy Memorandum, Headquarters European Theater of Operations, United States Army, Lieutenant Colonel A.H. Corley, Jr., Assistant Adjutant General to Commanding General, United States Strategic Air Forces, subject: Proposed Reciprocal Exchange of Combat Awards between Royal Air Force and United States Army Air Force in United Kingdom, 23 June 1944, plus attachment of 2 July 1944, AFHRA Call Number 519.287, Jun 1944-May 1945, IRIS Number 215468.

5. All immediate combat awards made or received pursuant to this agreement will be reported to this headquarters, including date of presentation, name, grade, serial number, unit of recipient and any other pertinent details.

By command of General EISENHOWER:

A.H. Corley, J.,
Lt. Colonel, A.G.D.,
Assistant Adjutant General

Attached: Memorandum of 2 July 1944 by Colonel Kenneth H. Bitting, Director of Personnel, to Group Captain Trott, RAF Personnel Liaison Officer:

1. (Omitted, referencing the above letter).

2. This office has contacted Hq ETOUSA and obtained further information which qualifies the provisions of the attached letter. They are briefly as follows:

a. The act for which the award is recommended must be performed within the six months period ending 30 June 44. Since these are "combat" decorations, presumably they should be initiated promptly after the act takes place.

b. It is believed that a new quota will shortly be obtained by Hq ETOUSA covering the six months period ending 30 June 1944.

c. The awards mentioned in par. 2 b of attached letter may be made by the Commanding General, USSTAF, and may be presented in accordance with his wishes without prior reference to Hq ETOUSA.

d. Hq ETOUSA desires a record after presentation has been made as indicated in par. 5 of attached letter.

16 July 1944: Headquarters, Air Command South East Asia, Royal Air Force, To Headquarters, Eastern Air Command, Headquarters, Third Tactical Air Force, Headquarters, Nos. 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 229, 230 and 231 Groups, 16 July, 1944, Reference 725/29/P.1:⁵²

HONOURS & AWARDS - POLICY.

H.M. The King has granted general permission for the acceptance and wearing without restriction of decorations and medals conferred by the Allies upon British subjects of the Royal Air Force.

2. Authority to award the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal and the Soldier's Medal to Royal Air Force personnel has been delegated by the Theatre Commander to the Commanding General, Army Air Forces, India-Burma Sector, China-Burma-India Theatre, i.e. the Air Commander, Eastern Air Command.

⁵² Policy Memorandum, Headquarters Air Command South East Asia, Royal Air Force, to Headquarters Eastern Air Command, Third Tactical Air Force, and numerous groups, 16 July 1944, AFHRA Call Number 820.287, 23 Jan-17 Jul 1944.

3. The power to make immediate British awards to U.S. personnel and of acceptance of U.S. awards has been delegated to the Allied Air Commander-in-Chief by the Air Ministry.

4. United States Army Regulations authorise the acceptance and wearing of decorations conferred by the British upon personnel of the United States Army Air Forces. The awards concerned are the Distinguished Service Order, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Distinguished Flying Medal, the Air Force Cross, the Air Force Medal, the Military Cross, the Military Medal, the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (Flying).

5. In order to ensure uniformity, the following will be the channels of submission of recommendations for honours and awards in Air Command, South East Asia.

(a) Recommendations for British awards to R.A.F., Dominion or I.A.F. personnel. (Omitted from this extract, as it has no reference to the U.S. Silver Star Medal.)

(b) Recommendations for U.S. awards to R.A.F., Dominion or I.A.F. personnel.

Recommendations for U.S. awards to R.A.F., Dominion or I.A.F. personnel initiated by the U.S. authorities at the Command or Group will in all cases be forwarded through the existing channels to Headquarters, Eastern Air Command. The Air Commander, Eastern Air Command, will, if he wishes to make the award in question, forward the recommendation to this Headquarters for the concurrence of the Allied Air Commander-in-Chief.

(c) Recommendations for British awards to U.S. personnel. (Omitted from this extract, as it has no reference to the U.S. Silver Star Medal.)

NOTE: In every case under (b) or (c) above, irrespective of the authority originating the citation, the senior officer of the other Service concerned at the Command or Group is to append his own remarks and recommendations to the citation prior to it being submitted to Headquarters, Eastern Air Command.

(c) [sic-should be (d)] Recommendations in respect of Squadrons and Units under the control of No. 177 Wing.

Recommendations in respect of units and transport squadrons under the control of No. 177 Wing will be forwarded, in accordance with (a), (b) or (c) above, to the Headquarters responsible for their operational control. The recommendations will then be passed to Headquarters, No. 229 Group of the concurrence or the Air Officer Commanding prior to submission to the Allied Air Commander-in-Chief.

Signed: A. Leis (unreadable)

Air Marshal,
Air Officer i/c Administration,
Headquarters Air Command S.E.A.