

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

GENERAL ORDERS)

23 January 1946

NO. 13)

SECTION VIII

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DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION--As authorized by Executive Order 9369 (Sec I, WD Bull 22, 1943), superseding Executive Order No 9075 (Sec III, WD Bull 11, 1942) and under the provisions of paragraph 2d (1), Section IV, Circular No 333, WD 1943, and letter, Headquarters United States Army Strategic Air Forces, file AG 200.6, subject: "Distinguished Unit Badge," dated 11 October 1945, and paragraph 4, Section I, General Orders 1, Pacific Air Command, United States Army, 25 December 1945, (Classified), the following units are cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy:

The 462nd Bombardment Group (VH) is cited for outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy during the period 23-29 May 1945. During this period the final strikes against the heavily defended Tokyo and Yokohama industrial areas were carried out, completing the destruction of the militarily important sections of these cities. Striking in great force twice within a 48 hour period on 23 May 1945 and 25 May 1945, the courageous crews of the 462nd Bombardment Group (VH) contributed materially to the destruction of 22.1 square miles of vital industrial area in Tokyo, bringing to 56.3 square miles the total area devastated in this, one of the world's largest cities. Three days later, on 29 May 1945, this group participated in a bold daylight attack on Yokohama which reduced to rubble 6.9 square miles of strategically important industrial area. The effect of these three missions upon Japanese ability to wage war was immeasurable, and the loss to the Japanese in morale was a staggering one. In spite of the fatiguing nature of the long, hazardous, over-water flights and the rapidity with which these missions were conducted, the crews exhibited an unwavering spirit of willingness to perform their tasks. On all missions they braved intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire. More than 75 aggressive enemy fighters were encountered by aircraft of the 462nd Bombardment Group on these three missions, but the gallant crews pressed on to their targets, destroying fifteen of the attacking aircraft and probably destroying three. During this momentous period, the ground personnel worked steadily throughout the day and night, determined to get a maximum number of their aircraft in the best possible mechanical condition for each of these three missions. Their conspicuous effort together with the high skill and determination of the gallant air crews reflects great credit on the 462nd Bombardment Group and the Armed Forces of the United States.

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BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL PARKER:

L H RODIECK
 Colonel, GSC
 Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/ Gustav A. Neuberg
 GUSTAV A. NEUBERG
 Lt Col, AGD
 Adjutant General

"TRUE EXTRACT COPY"

Robert B. Wilson
 ROBERT B. WILSON
 1st Lt., Air Corps