

HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES STRATEGIC AIR FORCES  
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GENERAL ORDERS)

26 April 1944.

NO.....25)

AWARDS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, and Circular #32, Hq ETOUSA, 20 March 1944, the DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS is awarded to the following named Officers and Enlisted Man.

FRANCIS S. GABRESKI, O-406131, Lieutenant Colonel. (then Major), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action with the enemy, 26 November 1943. On this date Colonel Gabreski led a flight of P-47 fighters on a bomber escort mission to targets near Oldenburg, Germany. With complete disregard for the danger involved Colonel Gabreski led his flight into combat against a large number of rocket firing enemy fighters which were protected by covering fighters. He personally attacked and destroyed the leading enemy aircraft and, despite damage sustained by his airplane from contact with falling pieces of the disintegrating enemy plane, sought out and destroyed another enemy fighter before returning to join his flight for further escort of the bombers. Colonel Gabreski's outstanding and spirited aggressiveness and his heroic disregard for his personal safety in the face of superior enemy forces were an inspiration to his fellow pilots and reflect highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Indiana.

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X CHARLES HENRY BOOTH, Jr., O-662734, Captain, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action with the enemy, 8 March 1944. On this date Captain Booth, acting as Command Pilot, led one section of a heavy bombardment group on a mission against important military installations deep in Germany. Intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered enroute to the target, and Captain Booth was painfully wounded in both legs by shell fragments. Without regard for the pain of his wounds and the discomfort of the cold, his electrically heated flying suit having become inoperative, Captain Booth dragged himself to the flight deck and from this position continued to direct the battle against enemy fighter attacks until the bombing run was completed approximately two hours later. Only then did he submit to first-aid treatment. The heroic actions of Captain Booth upon this occasion were inspirational to his fellow crew members and reflect highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Texas.

JAMES M. MORRIS, O-730573, Captain, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action with the enemy, 8 February 1944. On this date Captain Morris was Pilot of a P-38 Fighter airplane on a bomber escort mission to Frankfurt, Germany. While on this mission Captain Morris attacked and destroyed an ME 109 fighter. Very shortly thereafter he observed a moving train below him and immediately went down to attack it. As he proceeded homeward, he saw, in the vicinity of Sedan, two FW-190 fighters taking-off from an airdrome. Without thought of the danger of engaging the enemy at low altitude over his own airdrome, Captain Morris unhesitatingly attacked and destroyed one of the fighters and proceeded immediately to attack and destroy another FW-190 which had appeared over the field. With his fuel supply dangerously low, and in an area well defended by light anti-aircraft guns, Captain Morris set course

