

GENERAL ORDERS )  
: )  
NO. 1277 )

HEADQUARTERS  
FAR EAST AIR FORCES  
APO 925 - 27 June 1945

Section  
SILVER STAR--Awards..... I  
DISTINGUISHED-FLYING CROSS--Awards..... II

I. 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, Far East Air Forces, to the following named enlisted men:

Sergeant FRED B. BERNARD, (33279634), Air Corps, United States Army. For gallantry in action near Tarakan, Borneo, Netherlands East Indies, on 8 April 1945. Sergeant Bernard was a radar operator-gunner in the crew of a Catalina aircraft dispatched to rescue the crew of a B-25 down in Japanese-controlled waters. When a P-38 pilot sighted a dinghy and led the rescue plane to the area, the Catalina had to fly within 200 yards of enemy guns. They sent up an intense barrage of enemy anti-aircraft and machine-gun fire, badly damaging the Catalina and wounding Sergeant Bernard and another crew member. Although he was painfully injured in the chest and legs, Sergeant Bernard remained at his guns to provide fire cover during the rescue and submitted to medical attention only after the rescued airmen had been made comfortable. The exceptional courage and devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Bernard in disregarding his own suffering to insure the safety of others exemplify the highest traditions of the United States Army Air Forces. Home address: Mrs. Mary Bernard (Mother), 1631 Taylor Ave., Arnold, Penna.

Staff Sergeant AUGUST V. ROZNOVSKY, (6289095), Air Corps, United States Army. For gallantry in action near Tarakan, Borneo, Netherlands East Indies, on 8 April 1945. Sergeant Roznovsky was a surgical technician in the crew of a Catalina aircraft dispatched to rescue the crew of a B-25 aircraft down in Japanese-controlled waters. When a P-38 pilot sighted a dinghy and led the rescue plane to the area, the Catalina had to fly within 200 yards of enemy guns, they sent up an intense barrage of enemy anti-aircraft and machine-gun fire, badly damaging the Catalina and wounding Sergeant Roznovsky and a gunner. Although he was bleeding from severe face wound, Sergeant Roznovsky remained at his post. He took charge of the injured gunner and made the rescued airmen comfortable for the return trip, before giving directions for the administering of first aid to himself. The exceptional courage and devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Roznovsky in disregarding his own suffering to insure the well-being of others exemplify the highest traditions of the United States Army Air Forces. Home address: Miss Mary Roznovsky (Sister), c/o Mrs. John Valla, Granger, Tex.

II. DISTINGUISHED-FLYING CROSS. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 2 July 1926 (Bulletin 8, WD, 1926), a Distinguished-Flying Cross is awarded to the following named officers and enlisted men:

GO No. 1277, Hq. Far East Air Forces, 27 June 1945. (Contd.)

Corporal EDWARD G. BAUMGARTNER, (36103400), Air Corps, United States Army. Radio operator.

Home address: Mrs. Mary J. Baumgartner (Wife), 5319 Botanical St.,  
St. Louis, Mo.

First Lieutenant LAURENCE B. CRAIG, (0547308), Air Corps, United States Army. Navigator.

Home address: Mrs. Helene Craig (Wife), 405 Oxford Road, Cedarhurst,  
Long Island, N.Y.

Flight Officer JOHN F. LEONARD, (164877), Air Corps, United States Army. Co-pilot.


Home address: Mr. George F. Leonard (Father), 331 Summit Ave., Hackensack,  
N.J.

Sergeant DANIEL F. TROYER; (15099688), Air Corps, United States Army. Engineer.

Home address: Mrs. Lillian Nichols (Mother), R.R. 2, Providence, Ky.

The citation is as follows:

For extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight near Tarakan, Borneo, Netherlands East Indies, on 8 April 1945. These officers and enlisted men were crew members of a Catalina aircraft dispatched to rescue the crew of a B-25 which had crashed in Japanese-controlled waters. When a P-38 pilot sighted a dinghy near Tarakan and led the Catalina to the area, it had to fly within 200 yards of enemy guns, which sent up an intense barrage of anti-aircraft and machine-gun fire. The Catalina made a successful water landing, though it was severely damaged and 2 of the crew were painfully wounded. Under constant fire the crew picked up the airman in the dinghy, took off, and returned to an auxiliary base. The outstanding courage and devotion to duty displayed by these officers and enlisted men during this flight are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army Air Forces.

  
GEORGE C. KENNEY,  
General, United States Army,  
Commanding.

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