

HEADQUARTERS
FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE
APO 520

28 June 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

** E X T R A C T **

NUMBER 1418)

Awards of the Silver Star

SECTION I - AWARDS OF THE SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Circular No. 26, Headquarters MATCUSA, 6 March 1944, The Silver Star is awarded the following named personnel, residence and citation as indicated:

WILLIAM R. HAMMOND, O-668235, First Lieutenant, Air Corps, 762nd Bombardment Squadron, 460th Bombardment Group, United States Army. For gallantry in action in aerial flight as pilot of a B-24 type of aircraft. On 10 May 1944, Lieutenant Hammond participated in a bombing mission over an enemy aircraft factory in Austria. Enroute to the target, the formation encountered intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire which severely damaged Lieutenant Hammond's plane and set it on fire. At the same time, a burning parachute became wedged in the control cables sending the aircraft into a steep dive. Six (6) members of the crew bailed out but Lieutenant Hammond gallantly remained at the controls while the engineer removed the burning parachute and extinguished the fire. After a several thousand foot dive, Lieutenant Hammond brought the ship under control and salvoed his bombs in the target area. With his engineer acting a co-pilot, Lieutenant Hammond navigated and flew the severely damaged aircraft through extremely adverse weather, safely back to base. By his inherent courage and outstanding devotion to duty together with his splendid record of eight (8) combat missions, Lieutenant Hammond has reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Residence at appointment, Kosse, Texas.

By command of Major General TWINING:

R. K. TAYLOR
Colonel, GSC
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

s/ J M Ivins
J. M. IVINS
Lt. Colonel, AGD
Adjutant General

Certified true and correct.

SAMUEL WILMER, 1st Lt., A.C.