

RESTRICTED

(GO # 336, Hq Fifteenth Air Force,  
2 May 1944, cont'd)

type aircraft. On 6 April 1944, Major Spear was leading a flight in a formation of B-24 type aircraft assigned to bomb an enemy airfield in Yugoslavia. On the return trip, after a highly successful bombing, one (1) of the pilots in Major Spear's flight had to crash-land his aircraft in the sea near the enemy shore. Without regard for his own safety, and in imminent danger of enemy attack, Major Spear left the protection of his formation and returned to circle the crippled airplane. Upon noticing no inflated life rafts, Major Spear dropped the life rafts from his own airplane to the men struggling in the water. Even though his own airplane was damaged in the process of dropping life rafts, Major Spear continued to circle the survivors until help arrived. Through his bravery, Major Spear was instrumental in saving the lives of six (6) members of his flight. By his outstanding devotion to duty and disregard for his own safety, Major Spear has reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Residence at appointment: Alhambra, California.

JOHN E. ABDALLAH, O-733505, Captain, Air Corps, 340th Bombardment Squadron, 97th Bombardment Group, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the Mediterranean Theatre of Operations as bombardier of a B-17 type aircraft. On 20 October 1943, Captain Abdallah led his group on a bombing mission against an important enemy airdrome in Italy. Adverse weather conditions were encountered enroute, and the target area was found to be obscured by a complete overcast. Observing a landmark through a momentary break in the clouds, Captain Abdallah, after comparing the landmark with his maps, was positive that the target was directly in the path of his group. Skillfully plotting the course and determining the exact time for dropping his bombs, he led the entire group for a successful bombing in spite of the complete overcast. Photographs proved that his bombing had been highly successful, showing enemy installations severely damaged, and over eighteen (18) enemy aircraft destroyed on the ground. By his outstanding professional skill, leadership, and devotion to duty, together with his personal combat record of over fifty (50) successful missions against the enemy, Captain Abdallah has reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Residence at appointment: Fall River, Massachusetts.

FRANK CLEMMONS, JR., O-440344, Captain, Air Corps, 414th Bombardment Squadron, 97th Bombardment Group, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the Mediterranean Theatre of Operations as bombardier of a B-17 type aircraft. On 2 November 1943, Captain Clemmons led his formation on a bombing mission against an important enemy aircraft factory in Austria. Manning the nose guns against persistent enemy fighter attacks for over thirty (30) minutes before the target was reached, Captain Clemmons materially aided in the defense of his aircraft until the bombing run. Increased enemy opposition was encountered over the target, rendering one (1) engine inoperative, causing his ship to drop behind the formation. Disregarding this added difficulty, with outstanding professional skill, he successfully accomplished the lone bombing run, dropping his bombs directly on the target, inflicting severe damage to the vital enemy aircraft factory. Resuming his position, he fought off successive waves of hostile planes, and in the ensuing air battle his crew was credited with four (4) enemy aircraft destroyed. Not till his plane was safely out of enemy territory did he leave his guns. By his outstanding professional skill, courage, and leadership, as shown throughout his

missions against the enemy, Captain Clemmons has reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America.