

HEADQUARTERS
385TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
U S ARMY AIR FORCES
A P O 634

C-B-14

25 February 1944

SUBJECT: COMPLETION OF OPERATIONAL TOUR OF DUTY.

TO : WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

1. First Lieutenant Mario J. Persechini, O-801567, 549th Bombardment Squadron, 385th Bombardment Group (H), has this date, completed twenty-five heavy bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe.

2. Lieutenant Persechini's performance as a Pilot of a B-17 "Flying Fortress" has been outstanding, and his skill and co-operation contributed greatly towards the successful completion of these bombing missions. Because of his very apparent abilities, he was selected and flew as lead Pilot for this Group on many important high precision bombardments. He has aided in leveling enemy industrial targets and airdromes, such as those that were located in Braunschweig, Paris, Hanover, and Frankfurt. On August 17, 1943, he participated in the noted mission to Regensburg, Germany and in completing his tour he again bombed the same target. He is the only pilot in this heavy bombardment group to be present at both demoralizing and devastating attacks.

3. Lieutenant Persechini has displayed unquestionable courage and skill in the presence of great hazard and uncertainty, and he has performed the duties in an "Excellent" manner. He has been presented the following awards:

AIR MEDAL
1st OAK LEAF CLUSTER
2nd OAK LEAF CLUSTER
3rd OAK LEAF CLUSTER
DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

4. Lieutenant Mario J. Persechini has expressed a desire to become a B-17 Pilot Instructor, and because of his combat flying experience, and the fact that he possesses the necessary tact and temperament, it is recommended that his desire bear favorable consideration.

E. VANDEVANTER JR.,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding.