

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE
Office of the Commanding General
APO 634

8 June 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 149)

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I. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, and pursuant to authority contained in Letter, Hq., USSTAF, AG 200.6, 3 April 1944, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", the SILVER STAR is awarded to the following-named Officer and Enlisted Man:

AUDREY F. KLEPPER, 37336163, Staff Sergeant, Army Air Forces, United States Army. For gallantry in action against the enemy while on a bombardment mission over Germany, 24 April 1944. Shortly after the bombing run, the aircraft in which Sergeant Klepper was serving as Waist Gunner was attacked by a large number of hostile fighters. During the initial assault, he was seriously wounded in the neck by fragments of an exploding cannon shell. In spite of the painful nature of his wounds and though bleeding profusely, Sergeant Klepper continued to fire at the attacking fighters until forcibly removed from his position by members of the crew. Even after leaving his gun, he insisted on being placed where he could call out the position of the enemy planes and performed this self appointed task until he lost consciousness. The gallantry, skill and complete devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Klepper inspired all who were flying with him. Entered military service from Kansas.