

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS - Charles W. Hodges

Charles Hodges, our Reunion Chairman, received the Distinguished Service Cross. Following is part of a letter received by Charles from the War Department, The Adjutant General's Office, dated 24 October 1945.

"TO: Captain Charles W. Hodges, 201 Dickinson Avenue, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

I have the honor to inform you that, by direction of the President, the Distinguished Service Cross has been awarded to you by the Commanding General U. S. Strategic Air Forces in Europe. The citation is as follows:

"For extraordinary heroism in action with the enemy while serving as Pilot of a B-17 type airplane on a bombing mission over Hamburg, Germany, on 18 June 1944. Captain Hodges' airplane was hit by an anti-aircraft shell which killed the Co-Pilot, and tore off Captain Hodges' left foot as well as rendering useless many of the controls of the plane. The plane then went into a dive. After losing 13,000 feet of altitude, Captain Hodges managed to regain control of the airplane. This feat was rendered the more difficult by the fact that the body of the Co-Pilot was wedged against the controls and the Pilot had no rudder controls or instruments to rely on. Captain Hodges, badly wounded and minus his left foot, flew on for fifteen minutes during which time he successfully negotiated the flak defenses of the target, although flying at only 13,000 feet. When he was relieved and given first aid, Captain Hodges refused to relinquish command of his plane and directed the course of its flight back to England. At one point, he attempted to crawl back to his position at the controls but was restrained by the Bombardier. Captain Hodges continually reassured his crew as to their ultimate safety, and due to his courageous and gallant behavior was responsible for the safe return of his airplane and its crew to the United Kingdom. His conduct on this occasion reflects highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States."

The decoration will be forwarded to the Commanding General, Third Service Command, Baltimore, Maryland, who will select an officer to make the presentation. The officer selected will communicate with you concerning your wishes in the matter.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR "

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

(Kansas City)

"Much to my regret business interests prevent attending this reunion. It would be great to go. I'll plan for the next one.

was interested in Bill Aldridge's letter in the March '78 newsletter. I was navigator on Bill Holland's crew, Kick Provisional Group (YB-40's) and flew my first mission in a YB-40 over St. Nazairie, May 29, 1943. Finished my last mission with Pilots Charles J. Kelley and William H. Stewart with William Beynon assistant navigator to Cognac, France, December 31, 1943.

Your newsletters are very interesting. I'll look through my papers, etc. and see if I might have something to contribute. It's my pleasure to become a member of the 92 B G Assoc.

Best Regards - Walt Murphy"

Return membership blank to: Sheldon W. Kirsner, 2603 Cathedral Dr., St. Louis, MO 63129
Make ALL checks payable to: 92nd Bomb Group 1/11 CCRC Corp.

NAME _____	(Nickname) _____	Wife's First Name _____
TRIANGLE B LAPEL PIN-TIE TAC	Address _____	
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B-17 TIE TAC		
_____ \$5.00 members	_____ \$10.00 1979 DUES	POW CAPTURE DATA
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