



Distinguished Flying Cross Award Citation

The President of the United States takes great pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Flying Cross to First Lieutenant Lewis E. Riggle for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as Navigator in a B-25 type aircraft. On 6 February 1945, Lieutenant Riggle flew as Lead Navigator of a flight attacking enemy gun positions defending a railroad bridge at Ala, Italy. Displaying superior professional skill and resourcefulness, Lieutenant Riggle guided his Pilot directly to the initial point. Then aiding his Bombardier in setting course for the run over the objective, Lieutenant Riggle enabled the B-25's to score direct hits, silencing a number of guns and inflicting casualties on personnel. As a result of this successful attack, a large formation of bombers immediately following was able to release its bombs with devastating effect upon this vital bridge with slight opposition from the enemy. Turning away from the target, Lieutenant Riggle immediately changed course to enable his Pilot to escort a crippled plane safely back to base. On more than fifty combat missions, his outstanding proficiency and steadfast devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.

Branch of Service: U. S. Army Air Corps * Theatre for DFC: WWII * Aircraft: B-25