

Air Ministry,
28th January, 1941.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy:—

Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant John CUNNINGHAM (90216), Auxiliary Air Force, No. 604 Squadron.

During the past three months Flight Lieutenant Cunningham has carried out 25 night sorties during which he has destroyed two enemy bombers and succeeded in making seven interceptions. He has at all times shown the utmost enthusiasm to seek and destroy night raiders and has operated with confidence and success in extremely bad weather.

Flying Officer Philip Harold WATTS (43371).

In January, 1941, this officer carried out a most successful reconnaissance of Brest in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire. Flying Officer Watts has completed at least 45 operational missions and, by his keenness, thoroughness in preparation and determination has always obtained excellent results.

Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Pilot Officer John DICKINSON (79538), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 110 Squadron.

Awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.

759024 Sergeant George GASTIN THOMPSON, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 110 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Dickinson and Sergeant Thompson were the pilot and air gunner respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack a target at Gelsenkirchen. Owing to adverse weather conditions they were unable to locate their primary objective but successfully bombed a factory near Recklinghausen as an alternative. After passing Rindhoven, on the return journey, an illuminated dummy flare path was observed. Pilot Officer Dickinson thereupon altered course for Gilze-Rijan aerodrome where two hostile aircraft, showing navigation lights, were seen flying in a westerly direction. Pursuing one of these for about 30 miles, Pilot Officer Dickinson skilfully manœuvred his aircraft and enabled Sergeant Thompson to engage and eventually shoot down the enemy. Pilot Officer Dickinson and Sergeant Thompson showed great courage and initiative throughout the operation.

Awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.

741784 Sergeant Anthony Eyre JACKSON, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 83 Squadron.

749337 Sergeant George Wannan TURNER, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 83 Squadron.

Sergeants Jackson and Turner were pilot and wireless operator air gunner respectively in an aircraft detailed to carry out an attack on an aerodrome near Bordeaux in the early morning of a day in December, 1940. Owing to intense darkness, low cloud and uncertainty of position Sergeant Jackson

considered there was insufficient time to reach this target and decided to attack the submarine base at Lorient. This target was identified from a height of 1,200 feet and the attack was successfully carried out. Anti-aircraft and searchlight opposition became intense and the aircraft was hit three or four times. One shell burst in the navigator's cockpit and seriously wounded the navigator and destroyed maps and charts. Sergeant Turner, however, succeeded in obtaining communication with a home station from which he received diversion instructions in consequence of fog at his own aerodrome. He then assisted the pilot to locate this aerodrome, sent messages requesting the attendance of an ambulance and medical aid for the wounded navigator. In spite of the damage done to his aircraft, Sergeant Jackson succeeded in making a safe landing. The courage and devotion to duty displayed by these airmen on this and other occasions have been of the highest order.

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Flight Lieutenant Samuel McCaughey BOAL (37713). No. 217 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Derek Price MARVIN (39238). No. 206 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant James Douglas STEUART-RICHARDSON (33465) (since killed in action). No. 53 Squadron.

Flying Officer Alfred Lawrence FOWLER (42116). No. 248 Squadron.

Awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.

527071 Sergeant Stanley Henry HAWES. No. 240 Squadron.

632851 Sergeant Howard Sidney WEBB. No. 59 Squadron.

The above awards are for gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations.

The KING has also been graciously pleased to give orders for the publication of the name of the undermentioned airman in the London Gazette as having received an expression of Commendation for brave conduct in connection with Civil Defence:—

1290169 Aircraftman 2nd Class Stephen James READ.

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GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

The undermentioned are granted commissions for the duration of hostilities as Pilot Officers on probation:—

Sergeants.

1st Dec. 1940.

(Seniority 27th Nov. 1940.)

566277 Raymond Newport PEACE (45147).