

HONOURS FOR THE ROYAL NAVAL AIR SERVICE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointments to the Distinguished Service Order :—

Wing Capt. Edward Maitland Maitland, R.N.A.S.

In recognition of valuable and gallant work in connection with airships and parachutes. He has carried out experiments at his own personal risk, and has made some descents under enemy fire.

Sqdm. Cdr. Charles Henry Butler, D.S.C., R.N.A.S.

In recognition of his gallantry on the 5th June 1917, when he fought single-handed two engagements with a number of powerful hostile machines. He attacked six hostile aeroplanes together over the Thames Estuary, and later attacked two off Ostend. On each occasion the machine selected for attack was compelled to dive.

Flt. Lieut. Basil Deacon Hobbs, D.S.C., R.N.A.S.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Distinguished Service Cross to the undermentioned Officers :—

Flt. Cdr. John Callaghan Brooke, R.N.A.S.

In recognition of his services in the East Indies and Egypt Seaplane Squadron during the period 1st April 1916–31st March 1917. During this time he took part in several valuable reconnaissances and bombing flights, obtaining important information, and doing considerable damage to enemy organisations.

Flt. Cdr. Thomas Francis Netterville Gerrard, R.N.A.S.

In recognition of his services during an air fight on the 4th June 1917. This officer led his flight against 15–20 hostile aeroplanes, and alone had ten engagements with these machines.

He attacked one, and fired sixty rounds into its cockpit at point-blank range, the enemy machine rolling over and over for 3000 feet, and then falling vertically out of control.

He then attacked another enemy machine which had dived on to one of our machines from behind, and with the help of a scout he shot it down, the enemy being seen to crash to the ground.

Another hostile scout was then attacked by pilot, end-on, and received a long burst at very close range, the enemy going down in a spin, but apparently righting himself lower down.

During this last encounter Flt. Cdr. Gerrard's machine was riddled with bullets, but, by fine piloting, he landed safely, although all but his lateral controls were shot away and his machine damaged to such an extent as to require return to Depot for complete rebuilding.

This officer has now destroyed at least seven hostile aircraft. He was on active service in France and Belgium from April to September 1916, and during that period performed much valuable work.

Flt. Cdr. Reginald Frederick Stuart Leslie, R.N.A.S.

In recognition of his gallantry in pursuing hostile raiding aeroplanes out to sea in a land machine on the 25th May 1917. He attacked one hostile aeroplane, and caused it to descend in a steep nose dive, emitting smoke and steam. He was unable to observe its fate, as he was himself immediately attacked from behind by two other hostile machines and temporarily lost control. When he regained control, the machine which he had first attacked had disappeared, and two others were proceeding eastwards at a considerable height above him. He then returned safely to his aerodrome.

Flt. Lieut. Guy Duncan Smith, R.N.A.S.

In recognition of his services in the East Indies and Egypt Seaplane Squadron during the period 1st April 1916–31st March 1917. During this time he took part in several valuable reconnaissances and bombing flights, obtaining important information and doing considerable damage to enemy organisations.

Flt. Lieut. Raymond Collishaw, R.N.A.S.

In recognition of his services on various occasions, especially the following :

On June 1st 1917, this officer shot down an Albatross Scout in flames.

On 3rd June 1917, he shot down an Albatross Scout in flames.

On 5th June 1917, he shot down a two-seater Albatross in flames.

On the 6th June 1917, he shot down two Albatross scouts in flames and killed the pilot in a third.

He has displayed great gallantry and skill in all his combats.

Flt. Sub-Lieut. Norman Richard Cook, R.N.A.S.

For his services in an air-raid on Zeebrugge Mole and hostile shipping, on the 27th of May 1917.

Flt. Sub-Lieut. Robert Frederick Lea Dickey, R.N.A.S.

Warrt. Offr. (2nd Gr.) Frank Henry Whitmore, R.N.A.S.

In recognition of his services in the East Indies and Egypt Seaplane Squadron during the period 1st April 1916 to 31st March 1917.

The following awards have also been approved :—

*To receive the Distinguished Service Medal.*

C.P.O. Mech., 3rd Gr., Frederick Cusden, O.N.F. 5011 (Po.).

Air Mech., 2nd Cl., Henry Martineau Davis, O.N.F. 20254.

Air Mech., 1st Cl., Arthur William Goody, O.N.F. 12237.

The following Officers and men have been mentioned in despatches :—

Flt. Lieut. Edward James Pointer Burling, R.N.A.S.

Flt. Lieut. Humphrey de Verd Leigh, R.N.A.S.

Flt. Lieut. Frederick Middleton Fox, R.N.A.S.

Flt. Lieut. Henry Vernon Worrall, R.N.A.S.

Flt. Lieut. Thomas Gordon Mair Stephens, R.N.A.S.

Flt. Lieut. John Edward Scott, R.N.A.S.

Flt. Sub-Lieut. Rowan Heywood Daly, R.N.A.S.

Lieut. William Charles Abbott Meade, R.N.V.R.