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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1,
17th October, 1941.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointment to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of distinguished services in Abyssinia and Eritrea:—

*To be an Additional Commander of the Military
Division of the said Most Excellent Order:—*

Acting Air Commodore William Sowrey,
D.F.C., A.F.C., Royal Air Force.

*Air Ministry,
17th October, 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:—

Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commander Richard John WELLS,
D.F.C. (39918), No. 108 Squadron.

This officer has led his unit with great success. In attacks on Tripoli, 6 ships were sunk and hits were obtained on many others. Widespread damage was caused at various

other places. At Messina, in particular, the whole railway sidings, including many trucks, were destroyed while the power house and a large adjoining area were completely burned out. Throughout the short period of less than a month, Wing Commander Wells organised and directed all the sorties which were carried out by his unit and participated in 15 of them himself. He has at all times displayed outstanding leadership, courage and determination.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Wing Commander John Sterling McLEAN
(32230).

This officer has participated in 29 operational sorties. He has at all times shown the greatest courage and determination, often in the face of heavy enemy attacks, and has destroyed at least 2 and damaged another hostile aircraft. His leadership and organising ability are of a very high standard.

Wing Commander Robert Gordon YAXLEY,
M.C. (33130), No. 252 Squadron.

This officer commanded a detachment of fighter aircraft which recently carried out a series of sorties with the object of assisting in the safe passage of our convoys in the Mediterranean. Attacks were made on certain aerodromes and seaplane bases which resulted in a loss to the enemy of at least 49 aircraft and a further 42 damaged. The successes achieved undoubtedly contributed largely to

the fact that the convoys were able to proceed without loss; only 1 ship was damaged but it succeeded in reaching port. The courageous leadership and determination of this officer is worthy of the highest praise, and throughout he set an example which proved an inspiration to his fellow pilots.

Squadron Leader Marcus William Bower KNIGHT (37408), No. 485 (N.Z.) Squadron.

This officer has commanded the squadron since its formation. He has participated in 43 operational sorties over enemy territory as well as in a number of convoy patrols. In June, 1941, whilst engaged on a convoy patrol, Squadron Leader Knight destroyed a Junkers 88. He has led the squadron with great skill and courage throughout.

Squadron Leader Raymund Charles Love (37194), No. 222 (Natal) Squadron.

This officer has displayed great coolness and determination in his attacks against the enemy. Since July, 1941, Squadron Leader Love has participated in 31 operational sweeps in addition to operations against shipping. By his excellent leadership and fine personal example he has proved an inspiration to his fellow pilots.

Flight Lieutenant David SALWEY (33399).

This officer has displayed outstanding skill and devotion to duty in photographic reconnaissance.

Flight Lieutenant Derek Harland WARD (40786), No. 87 Squadron.

This officer fought with his squadron during the air operations in France and destroyed 2 enemy aircraft. Since September, 1940, he has commanded a flight engaged in night flying operations and has performed excellent work, particularly in the training of new pilots. In July, 1941, Flight Lieutenant Ward and another pilot intercepted a force of hostile aircraft which attempted to attack one of our aerodromes from a low altitude. Although the weather conditions were extremely unfavourable, at least 1 of the attacking aircraft was damaged. On another occasion, Flight Lieutenant Ward led a successful attack on the aerodrome at Caen. In spite of anti-aircraft opposition hits were believed to have been obtained on 2 enemy aircraft and, in addition a goods train was machine gunned together with buildings and gun-posts. This officer has always displayed the greatest keenness to engage the enemy.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Charles Roy BUSH (42691), No. 41 Squadron.

This officer has carried out 48 operational sweeps over enemy territory and has destroyed at least 3 hostile aircraft. Flight Lieutenant Bush also took part in the air operations in France and later fought in the Battle of Britain. He has at all times displayed courage and keenness and has set an excellent example.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Graham James Cox (41668), No. 152 Squadron.

This officer has completed 250 hours operational flying in the course of which he has participated in 22 combats and has destroyed 3 hostile aircraft and damaged a further 5. On one occasion Flight Lieutenant Cox coolly

drove off an enemy fighter which was attacking his commanding officer whose aircraft had become separated from the rest of the fighter formation. He then flew to the assistance of one of our bombers which, owing to its damaged condition was unable to keep formation, and escorted it until it was forced to descend on the sea. Although his fuel was running low, Flight Lieutenant Cox flew over the position until he saw the bomber crew had successfully launched the dinghy. Both as section leader and flight commander, this officer has displayed great leadership and ability.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Edward Vivian DARLING (65979), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 602 Squadron.

This officer has been engaged in active operations over a long period and has proved himself to be a skilful and courageous fighter pilot. He fought in the Dunkirk operations and later in the Battle of Britain. He has since completed 32 operational sweeps and throughout he has displayed excellent leadership, keenness and efficiency. He has destroyed at least 3 enemy aircraft and damaged a further 2.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Robert Deacon ELLIOTT (76311), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 72 Squadron.

This officer has been engaged on operational flying since December 1939. He fought in the Battle of Britain during which he destroyed 4 enemy aircraft. In addition to participating in many night patrols, Flight Lieutenant Elliott has been largely responsible for the training of new members of his squadron. Throughout, he has shown exceptional skill and courage.

Acting Flight Lieutenant James Chilton Francis HAYTER (36207), No. 611 Squadron.

Since June 1941, this officer has completed 48 operational flights over enemy territory and during the period has destroyed 4 and damaged a further 4 hostile aircraft. Flight Lieutenant Hayter participated in the fighting in France in 1940 and later fought in the Battle of Britain. He has displayed great skill and leadership and has contributed materially to the high standard of morale in his unit.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Jacobus Johannes LE ROUX (42240), No. 91 Squadron.

This officer has carried out over 200 operational sorties which have included shipping reconnaissances, during which much valuable information has been obtained, and numerous attacks on shipping and enemy aerodromes in the face of heavy enemy fire. Flight Lieutenant Le Roux has destroyed 3 hostile aircraft in combat and at least 1 on the ground.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Roy MARPLES (70868), No. 41 Squadron.

This officer has shown great courage and leadership as a flight commander. He has carried out 52 operational sorties over enemy territory and has destroyed 2, probably destroyed 3 and damaged a further 2 enemy aircraft. His keenness and personal example have been outstanding.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Chesley Gordon PETERSON (83706), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 71 (Eagle) Squadron.

This American pilot has led his flight with initiative and determination during the past 3 months. He has participated in 42 operational sorties and has destroyed 2, probably destroyed a further 2 and damaged 1 hostile aircraft. His coolness and courage have set an excellent example.

Flying Officer William Ian ANSTEY (36214), No. 70 Squadron.

This officer, as captain of aircraft, carried out 7 long distance night bombing attacks during the first 14 days in August, 1941. 4 attacks were made on shipping at Benghazi, 2 attacks on the Corinth canal and 1 on the aerodrome at Berka. Good results were obtained on each occasion. Throughout, Flying Officer Anstey displayed great efficiency and physical endurance. He has completed 43 operational missions, involving nearly 300 hours flying.

Flying Officer Gregory Augustus DAYMOND (84657), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 71 (Eagle) Squadron.

This American pilot has taken part in 27 operational missions, including sorties over Northern France and convoy patrols. He has always shown great courage and keenness to attack the enemy and he has destroyed 5 of their aircraft.

Pilot Officer Robert Arthur BEARDSLEY (100607), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 41 Squadron.

In the course of 14 operational sorties over enemy territory, Pilot Officer Beardsley has destroyed 3, probably destroyed 3 and damaged a further 4 hostile aircraft. Both as a section and flight commander, Pilot Officer Beardsley has set a fine example.

Pilot Officer Keith William TRUSCOTT (Aus. 400213), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 452 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer joined the squadron in May, 1941, after a period of training in Australia and Canada. He has participated in many operational sorties against the enemy and has displayed great courage and determination throughout. Pilot Officer Truscott has destroyed at least 6 enemy aircraft.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

751013 Flight Sergeant William James GREGORY, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 29 Squadron.

This airman has at all times shown the greatest skill and keenness. He has taken part in the destruction of 3 raiding aircraft. Throughout, Flight Sergeant Gregory has set a splendid example.

Aus. 402150 Sergeant Keith Bruce CHISHOLM, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 452 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Sergeant Chisholm joined the squadron in May, 1941, after a period of training in Australia and Canada. He has participated in 29 operational sorties against the enemy and throughout he has shown a fine fighting spirit. Sergeant Chisholm has destroyed 6 Messerschmitt 109's.

754112 Sergeant Joseph Hilton Henry MILLS, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 70 Squadron.

In September, 1941, this airman was the captain of an aircraft detailed to participate in a raid on shipping in the harbour at Benghazi. Owing to engine trouble, Sergeant Mills was unable to take off with the squadron but, after a great effort both by himself and the ground crew, the aircraft was made serviceable and he took off two hours later. Reaching his objective, Sergeant Mills attacked a small but vitally important ship which was used for pumping oil from tankers. He released his bombs on his second run and obtained hits causing a fire on the ship which was completely burnt out. Throughout the 43 operational missions in which he has participated, Sergeant Mills has displayed similar perseverance, determination and devotion to duty.

968591 Sergeant Wilfred PALMER, No. 41 Squadron.

This airman has displayed great courage and coolness in the face of the enemy. On a recent operation near Dunkirk, when engaged by a superior number of Messerschmitts, his ammunition became expended but, with commendable skill Sergeant Palmer led his pursuers down low, then flew under some high tension cables so that 1 of the following Messerschmitts crashed into the cables and was destroyed. Sergeant Palmer has destroyed at least 3 enemy aircraft.

754554 Sergeant Norman James Alexander PATON, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 226 Squadron.

This airman has participated in 14 daylight bombing attacks on enemy targets. In July, 1941, he carried out a successful attack on the docks at Rotterdam. Defying intense anti-aircraft fire, Sergeant Paton pressed home his attack and obtained a hit which destroyed a vessel of 1,800 tons. Three days later, he attacked a convoy and scored direct hits on a ship of 5,000 tons. In August, 1941, Sergeant Paton participated in an attack on Lille and, despite heavy enemy fire which hit his aircraft in several places and also wounded his observer, he successfully bombed his target. Some days later, he bombed and set on fire a 2,000 ton merchant vessel in the face of heavy fire from escorting ships. Sergeant Paton's aircraft received a direct hit from a cannon shell which wounded the observer and wrecked the instruments. Nevertheless, Sergeant Paton flew his aircraft safely back to base. He is an excellent leader whose skill and coolness in the face of the enemy are of the highest order.

754154 Sergeant Cedric Pyne STONE, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 72 Squadron.

This airman has proved himself to be a cool, keen and resourceful pilot. Within the last two months, Sergeant Stone has carried out 28 sorties over Northern France. On one occasion he became separated from his unit and was attacked by 4 Messerschmitt 109's. He succeeded in destroying at least 1 of the enemy aircraft without damage to his own. The following day, Sergeant Stone destroyed another hostile aircraft. By his splendid example, often in difficult conditions, he has assisted in maintaining a high standard of morale in his unit.

Air Ministry,
17th October, 1941.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the undermentioned award in recognition of gallant conduct:—

Military Medal.

625329 Aircraftman 1st Class Marcel Gerard COMEAU.

In the course of a heavy bombing and machine gun attack on an aerodrome, a bomb

exploded on a trench causing 2 soldiers, both Greeks, to be buried in the debris. Aircraftman Comeau, displaying great bravery, left the shelter of his trench and, although the station was under continuous fire, managed to dig them out with his hands. One of them however subsequently died. Later on, in the face of enemy fire, Aircraftman Comeau secured from another position a gun which greatly improved the defence of his own position.

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