



THIRD SUPPLEMENT
TO
The London Gazette

Of FRIDAY, the 23rd of JANUARY, 1942

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

TUESDAY, 27 JANUARY, 1942

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
27th January, 1942.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the British Empire Medal (Military Division) to:—

Aus. 5598 Leading Aircraftman Raymond David Moore, Royal Australian Air Force.

When an aircraft crashed into the sea in August, 1941, Leading Aircraftman Moore, in company with other airmen and officers, entered the shark-infested sea in an endeavour to rescue the crew. Although others were forced to return to the beach because of the burning petrol and wreckage which hindered attempts at rescue, Leading Aircraftman Moore, exercising marked determination, succeeded in reaching the main portion of the wreck. He carried on diving into the wreckage in repeated attempts to reach anyone who might have been trapped in the aircraft, and only ceased through extensive and severe petrol burns of the first degree to face and chest which necessitated immediate medical treatment. This airman displayed outstanding courage, determination and devotion to duty as he was fully aware of the danger from sharks which infested these waters and the possibility of major injury from the burning petrol.

*Air Ministry,
27th January, 1942.*

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:—

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader Edward Philip Patrick GIBBS (32225), No. 130 Squadron.

This officer has been engaged on active operations over a long period and has par-

ticipated in many sorties over France. During a sortie near Calais, in July, 1941, Squadron Leader Gibbs was involved in combat with 4 enemy fighters and shot down 1 and damaged another of the attackers. Since assuming command of No. 130 Squadron, Squadron Leader Gibbs has, by his excellent leadership and devotion to duty, raised the unit to a high standard of operational efficiency. In December, 1941, during a bombing attack on Brest, Squadron Leader Gibbs probably destroyed 1 of 3 Messerschmitt 109s which attempted to intercept our bombers.

Flying Officer Peter John CUNDY (43098), No. 120 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Ronald Roxburgh FABEL (102982), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 120 Squadron.

In January, 1942, Flying Officer Cundy and Pilot Officer Fabel were respectively captain and navigator of a Liberator aircraft on patrol in the Bay of Biscay. A Heinkel 115 floatplane was encountered and at once attacked. By skilful manoeuvring Flying Officer Cundy enabled his gunners to bring effective fire to bear on the enemy aircraft, which broke off the combat and escaped into cloud with one engine on fire. An enemy tanker with a submarine alongside was then sighted. Flying Officer Cundy immediately attacked the submarine with bombs and cannon fire and the submarine disappeared beneath the surface leaving a large patch of oil. The tanker was then bombed and attacked with cannon fire. A second Heinkel floatplane which appeared was engaged and driven off with smoke pouring from it. Flying Officer Cundy then resumed his attack on the tanker with gunfire and scored many further hits.

Acting Warrant Officer Thomas James MYCOCK (754674), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 97 Squadron.

One night in January, 1942, Warrant Officer Mycock was the captain of an air-

craft which carried out a low level attack on the battle cruisers Gneisenau and Scharnhorst at Brest. The task demanded a high degree of skill and initiative and, although the night was extremely dark, Warrant Officer Mycock finally approached the target in the desired direction. In spite of heavy opposition from the enemy's defences, a daring and determined attack was made from a height of only 500 feet. This non-commissioned officer has at all times performed his operational tasks with great keenness and enthusiasm.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

CAN/R.78203 Sergeant Charles Lorne BRAY, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 103 Squadron.

AUS/404553 Sergeant Douglas Wilberforce SPOONER, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 103 Squadron.

One night in January, 1942, Sergeants Bray and Spooner were captain and second pilot respectively of an aircraft which participated in an attack on Wilhelmshaven. Sergeant Bray carried out a determined attack in spite of intense anti-aircraft fire but, when making a second run over the target, a violent explosion shook the aircraft and an ignited flare was blown from the rear of the bomb compartment into the fuselage where it set fire to the fabric, the floor and a seat. The aircraft was now brightly

illuminated so that it was an easy target and, whilst held in a concentration of some 30 searchlights was subjected to intense enemy fire. The situation began to appear hopeless and Sergeant Bray ordered the crew to escape by parachute. He then set the controls and, when making his way to the rear of the aircraft to ensure that the crew had left safely, he observed Sergeant Spooner still battling with the flames. Sergeant Bray thereupon returned to the controls and skilfully and coolly extricated his aircraft from a perilous situation. The flare eventually burned its way through the floor of the aircraft and Sergeant Spooner, having exhausted the extinguisher, finally subdued the flames with his gloved hands. He then went forward and, to enable Sergeant Bray to fulfil the duties of navigator, took over the controls. Although suffering acutely from the effects of the fumes, he flew the aircraft safely back to this country. Throughout, these airmen showed great courage and set an example worthy of the highest praise.

AMENDMENTS.

In notification of 1st January, 1942 (p. 43, col. 1):—

Delete (since deceased) after Group Captain A. HESKETH, O.B.E., D.F.C.

For Group Captain J. SYLVESTER *read* Group Captain J. SILVESTER.

LONDON

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:

York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh 2;

39-41 King Street, Manchester 2; 1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;

80, Chichester Street, Belfast;

or through any bookseller

1942

Price Sixpence net

S.O. Code No. 65—35434