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Air Ministry,
13th March, 1942.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to confer the VICTORIA CROSS on the under-mentioned officer in recognition of most conspicuous bravery:—

Flying Officer Kenneth CAMPBELL (72446), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve (deceased), No. 22 Squadron.

This officer was the pilot of a Beaufort aircraft of Coastal Command which was detained to attack an enemy battle cruiser in Brest Harbour at first light on the morning of 6th April, 1941. The aircraft did not return but it is now known that a torpedo attack was carried out with the utmost daring.

The battle cruiser was secured alongside the wall on the north shore of the harbour, protected by a stone mole bending round it from the west. On rising ground behind the ship stood protective batteries of guns. Other batteries were clustered thickly round the two arms of land which encircle the outer harbour. In this outer harbour near the mole were moored three heavily-armed anti-aircraft ships, guarding the battle cruiser. Even if an aircraft succeeded in penetrating these formidable defences, it would be almost impossible, after delivering a low-level attack, to avoid crashing into the rising ground beyond.

This was well known to Flying Officer Campbell who, despising the heavy odds, went cheerfully and resolutely to the task. He ran the gauntlet of the defences. Coming in almost at sea level, he passed the anti-aircraft ships at less than mast-height in the very mouths of their guns, and skimming

over the mole launched a torpedo at point-blank range. The battle cruiser was severely damaged below the water-line, and was obliged to return to the dock whence she had come only the day before.

By pressing home his attack at close quarters in the face of a withering fire on a course fraught with extreme peril, Flying Officer Campbell displayed valour of the highest order.

Air Ministry,
13th March, 1942.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards:—

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader Leslie Hugh William PARKIN (37982), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 77 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader George CLAPPERTON (60761), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 78 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Frank Leslie Herbert EDDISON (39377) (deceased), No. 214 Squadron, *awarded with effect from 9th May, 1941.*

Acting Squadron Leader Peter Wellwood Fortune LANDALE (70379), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve (deceased), No. 10 Squadron, *awarded with effect from 17th July, 1941.*

Flight Lieutenant George Francis GRANT (42216), No. 109 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Russell Ernest ORCHARD (41313) (deceased), No. 58 Squadron, *awarded with effect from 23rd August, 1941.*