

THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS, THE AIR FORCE CROSS, THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING MEDAL AND THE AIR FORCE MEDAL.

Air Ministry.

20th March, 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 Service Order.

Flight Lieutenant Adrian Warburton, D.F.C. (41635).

This officer has carried out many missions each of which has demanded the highest degree of courage and skill. On one occasion whilst carrying out a reconnaissance of Taranto, Flight Lieutenant Warburton made 2 attempts to penetrate the harbour, although as there was much low cloud this entailed flying at a height of 50 feet over an enemy battleship. In spite of the failure of his port engine and repeated attacks from enemy aircraft, he completed his mission and made a safe return. On another occasion he obtained photographs of Tripoli in spite of enemy fighter patrols over the harbour. In March, 1942, Flight Lieutenant Warburton carried out a reconnaissance of Palermo and obtained photographs revealing the damage caused by our attacks. This officer has never failed to obtain photographs from a very low altitude, regardless of enemy opposition. His work has been most valuable and he has displayed great skill and tenacity.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Edward Charles Crocker Tomkins (39910), No. 37 Squadron.

One night in March, 1942, Squadron Leader Tomkins, as senior captain of aircraft, participated in a successful attack on Palermo. He spent a considerable time over the harbour, in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire, before making his attack. He succeeded in setting a large enemy merchant vessel on fire, thereby assisting other aircraft in locating the target area in subsequent attacks. As a result of the operation, 2 enemy vessels of 6,000 tons were sunk and one 9,000-ton vessel was severely damaged. Considerable damage was also caused to harbour installations. The successes achieved were largely due to Squadron Leader Tomkins's courage and determination.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

AUS./402052 Sergeant Leonard Graham Fuller, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 37 Squadron.

One night in March, 1942, this airman was captain of an aircraft which participated in an attack on Palermo, when 2 enemy vessels of 6,000 tons were sunk, another severely damaged, and much destruction was caused to harbour installations. Having set one of the enemy vessels on fire, this airman flew back to his base for his aircraft to be refuelled and re-armed. He then returned to the target and after making a second attack on the ships, remained over the area for some time in order to prevent fire-fighting parties from working.

777952 Aircraftman 1st Class Ronald Dudley Keith Hadden, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

This airman has accompanied Flight Lieutenant Warburton on all his operational flights and has displayed great keenness and devotion to duty. On numerous occasions, when his aircraft has been attacked by enemy fighters, Aircraftman Hadden has given valuable assistance to his pilot by informing him of the position and movements of the attacking aircraft. On all occasions this airman has shown great coolness in the face of the enemy and has thus done much to ensure their safe return. He has set an excellent example to all.

AMENDMENT.

In notification of 13th March 1942 (p. 1164, col. 2) regarding Sergeant E. I. Nightingale, for No. 114 Squadron read No. 144 Squadron.

India Office,

20th March, 1942.

The KING has been pleased to appoint Maj.-Gen. W. G. H. Vickers, O.B.E., I.A., to be Quarter-master-General in India with actg. rank of Lt.-Gen., 2nd Mar. 1942.

The KING has approved the following promotions, appointments, retirements, etc.:—

ROYAL INDIAN NAVY.

Lt. R. L. Hayward (retired), is granted the rank of Lt.-Comdr. on the retired list of the R.I.N., 10th Aug. 1923 and not as stated in the Gazette of the 7th Nov. 1930.

ROYAL WARRANT.

GEORGE R.I.

GEORGE the SIXTH, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India; To all to whom these Presents shall come.

Greeting.

Whereas We did, by a Warrant under Our Sign Manual, dated 22nd September, 1940, amend and consolidate the regulations governing the two decorations designated the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Force Cross, and the two medals designated the Distinguished Flying Medal and the Air Force Medal, and did direct that the regulations so amended and consolidated and incorporated in the said Royal Warrant should be the regulations governing the said decorations and medals;

And Whereas the said Royal Warrant was amended by a Royal Warrant dated 11th March 1941;

And Whereas we deem it expedient that a further alteration should be made in the regulations governing the said decorations and medals;

Now, Therefore, We do by these Presents for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, ordain that the following regulations shall be substituted for the corresponding regulations in the Royal Warrant dated 22nd September 1940 and shall henceforth be construed and have the same effect as if they formed part of the said Royal Warrant:—

13. *Eligibility.*

(1) The Distinguished Flying Cross shall be granted to such officers and warrant officers, and the Distinguished Flying Medal to such non-commissioned officers and airmen, as shall be recommended to Us by or through Our Secretary of State for Air (or, in the case of any of Our Dominions the government whereof shall so desire, the appropriate Minister of State for the said Dominion), for exceptional valour, courage or devotion to duty whilst flying in active operations against the enemy.

(2) The Air Force Cross shall be granted to such officers and warrant officers, and the Air Force Medal to such non-commissioned officers and airmen, as shall be recommended to Us by or through Our Secretary of State for Air (or, in the case of any of Our Dominions the government whereof shall so desire, the appropriate Minister of State for the said Dominion), for exceptional valour, courage or devotion to duty whilst flying, though not in active operations against the enemy.

* * *

14. *Bars.*

When an individual who has been awarded one of the above decorations or medals shall again be recommended to Us by or through Our Secretary of State for Air (or, in the case of any of Our Dominions the government whereof shall so desire, the appropriate Minister of State for the said Dominion), for further exceptional valour, courage or devotion to duty, he shall be awarded a bar to be attached to the ribbon by which the decoration or medal is suspended, and for every additional such recommendation an additional bar may be awarded. For every bar awarded a small silver rose shall be added to the ribbon when worn alone.

17. *Forfeiture and restoration.*

(1) It shall be competent for Us, Our Heirs and Successors by an Order under our Sign Manual and on a recommendation by or through Our Secretary of State for Air (or, in the case of any of Our Dominions the government whereof shall so desire, the appropriate Minister of State for the said Dominion), to cancel and annul the award to any person of the above decorations or medals and thereupon the name of such person in the register shall be erased; but We, Our Heirs and Successors shall at all times have power to restore any decoration or medal which may have been forfeited when such recommendation shall have been withdrawn.

* * *

Given at Our Court at Saint James's this twenty-third day of February, 1942, in the sixth year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command.

Archibald Sinclair.