

members of the crew and succeeded in extricating 2 further bodies. By now his hands, feet and clothing were badly burned and he was in an exhausted condition but, even so, it was with great difficulty that others prevented him from re-entering the burning aircraft. Shortly afterwards he was admitted to sick quarters suffering from severe burns. Throughout, Corporal Taylor displayed great gallantry and a complete disregard for his own safety.

Aus.5213 Corporal Richards Benjamin Whittington, Royal Australian Air Force.

In September, 1941, an aircraft, when taking off, crashed into another which was parked on the edge of the runway. Both burst into flames. On hearing the crash, Corporal Whittington raced to the scene in the nearest transport. He found the wing tanks blazing, and a fire tender already in action. The pilot was unconscious in the cockpit. With utter disregard for his own safety, Corporal Whittington jumped on to a wing of the plane, undid the pilot's harness and began to drag him from the cockpit. When he had nearly extricated him, the medical officer of the unit and a leading aircraftman arrived and helped Corporal Whittington to get the pilot clear before the oxygen bottles and petrol tanks exploded and the aircraft was completely destroyed. The pilot received facial injuries in the crash, and was burnt on the arms and legs. He owes his life to the prompt action of Corporal Whittington whose courage was of a very high order.

*Air Ministry.*

24th 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:—

On the afternoon of the 12th February, 1942, a force of Beaufort and Hudson aircraft carried out an attack on an enemy naval force, including the Scharnhorst and the Gneisenau, off the Dutch coast. In the face of harassing fire from screening destroyers, the attack was pressed home with the utmost determination at very close range. Although it has not been possible to assess the damage inflicted, owing to the extremely poor visibility, it is believed that several hits were obtained. The operation which demanded a high degree of skill and courage, reflects the greatest credit upon the following officers and airmen who participated:—

*Distinguished Service Order.*

Squadron Leader William Hedley CLIFF (37567), No. 42 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Flight Lieutenant Eric Graham PETT (42357), No. 42 Squadron.

Flying Officer Rodney Bainbrigg ARCHER (Aus.402148), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 42 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Thomas Hulton CARSON (89820), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 217 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Gilbert Alan ETHERIDGE (61299), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 217 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Thomas Alexandra STEWART (114955), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 217 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

Can/R.64432 Flight Sergeant James Waldron CREEDON, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 407 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

908637 Sergeant Howard Garson EVERETT, No. 407 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

978688 Sergeant George HANCOX, No. 407 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

*Air Ministry.*

24th 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.*

Acting Wing Commander Charles Brian Barry WALLIS (37236).

After participating in the campaign in the Western Desert, Wing Commander Wallis took his squadron to Burma and immediately went into action. In all the important operations carried out by the squadron in Burma his qualities of leadership have done much to maintain its high morale. On several occasions, Wing Commander Wallis's aircraft has been severely damaged by enemy anti-aircraft fire.

*Second Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Wing Commander Frank Reginald CAREY, D.F.C., D.F.M. (43132).

When leading the squadron or wing, this officer has displayed high qualities of leadership and has set a high example by his courage and devotion to duty. Wing Commander Carey has destroyed at least 5 enemy aircraft.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Peter Roger Anson FORD (40816).

This officer has carried out a large number of operational flights against the enemy including successful attacks on Bangkok. Squadron Leader Ford has displayed fine qualities of leadership and has consistently shown great keenness and devotion to duty.

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