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TUESDAY, 7 JULY, 1942

*Air Ministry.
7th July, 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 Squadron Leader Christopher Frederick CURRANT, D.F.C. (43367), No. 501 Squadron.

Squadron Leader Currant is a most courageous pilot and a brilliant leader. His untiring efforts and outstanding ability have been reflected in the splendid work accomplished by the squadron which he commands. One day in March, 1942, he was wounded in the head during a sortie. Despite this, he flew his aircraft safely back to base. Following a short enforced rest, he returned to operational flying with renewed vigour. Squadron Leader Currant has destroyed at least 14 and damaged many more enemy aircraft.

Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Anthony Richard Henry BARTON, D.F.C. (30104), No. 126 Squadron.

Whilst operating from Malta, Squadron Leader Barton has destroyed at least 5 enemy aircraft, 2 of which he destroyed in one combat. He has at all times displayed the greatest determination to inflict loss on the enemy.

Squadron Leader Reginald Patrick Mahoney GIBBS, D.F.C. (33250), No. 39 Squadron.

Early in June, 1942, Squadron Leader Gibbs attacked and sank a large enemy merchant vessel. Some time afterwards this officer participated in an attack on an Italian

naval force. Despite opposition from enemy fighters and in the face of defensive fire from the naval vessels, Squadron Leader Gibbs successfully launched his torpedo at the leading warship. He flew his extensively damaged aircraft safely to base where he executed a skilful landing. This officer has at all times displayed great skill and devotion to duty. He has contributed materially to the operational efficiency of his squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant John Agorastos PLAGIS, D.F.C. (80227), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 185 Squadron.

This officer has displayed exceptional skill and gallantry in combat. He has destroyed at least 10 enemy aircraft, 2 of which he destroyed in one engagement. Undeterred by superior numbers of attacking aircraft, he presses home his attacks with great determination.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Wing Commander Arthur John MASON (33169), No. 39 Squadron.

In June, 1942, this officer led an attack on an Italian naval force. Despite fighter opposition, a determined attack was made and at least 1 warship was hit by a torpedo. His leadership and courage in the face of formidable opposition were worthy of the highest praise.

Flight Lieutenant Harold Graham POCKLEY (Aus.608), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 10 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of operational sorties against enemy shipping, both by day and by night, and has inflicted damage on both naval and merchant ships. His skill, tenacity and coolness under fire has set an inspiring example.

Flying Officer Ian Arbuthnot SLAUGHTER (42898), No. 203 Squadron.

This officer has at all times displayed great devotion to duty. In June, 1942, Flying Officer Slaughter skilfully located and shadowed an Italian naval force, and passed on vital information which enabled formations of our aircraft to attack the force without delay. Throughout he showed great operational efficiency.

Pilot Officer John Henry Eric BISLEY (Aus.402720), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 126 Squadron.

This officer is a courageous and determined pilot. One day in April, during an engagement with a superior number of enemy aircraft, he destroyed 2 bombers. Although he himself was severely wounded during the combat, he succeeded in landing at base. Pilot Officer Bisley has destroyed 5 hostile aircraft.

Pilot Officer Adrian Philip GOLDSMITH, D.F.M. (Aus.402500), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 126 Squadron.

This officer is a skilful and courageous pilot. In June, 1942, during an attack on a convoy 130 miles from his base, he shot down 2 enemy aircraft. Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal, Pilot Officer Goldsmith has destroyed 6 enemy aircraft, bringing his victories to 11.

Pilot Officer Michael Adrian GRAVES (69475), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 126 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Graves is a skilful pilot and a fine leader. In May, 1942, he led the squadron in an attack on an enemy bombing force. Although the bombers were heavily escorted by fighters, Pilot Officer Graves' squadron destroyed 5 Italian bombers. This officer has personally destroyed at least 3 hostile aircraft.

Pilot Officer Stanley John JORDON (48951), No. 489 (N.Z.) Squadron.

Pilot Officer Jordon is the rear gunner and wireless operator of a bomber aircraft. In June, 1942, his aircraft was attacked by 2 Focke Wulf 100's. In the first of several attacks, Pilot Officer Jordon coolly waited before firing a burst which caused one of the pilots to break away with black smoke coming from his aircraft. Four further attacks were made by the remaining fighters during which Pilot Officer Jordon, by his excellent directions, enabled his pilot to out-manoeuvre the attacks. Whenever the pilot's evasive action enabled him to bring his guns into action, Pilot Officer Jordon used them effectively. Throughout the engagement, he displayed great courage and skill which contributed materially to the safe return of his aircraft.

Pilot Officer John Andrew Trevor MEREDITH (116897), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

One night in May, 1942, Pilot Officer Meredith, as captain of an aircraft, carried out an attack on a target in Cologne. On the return journey, his aircraft was badly damaged and two of his crew were wounded. Despite this, Pilot Officer Meredith, with great skill and determination, flew his damaged aircraft for over 2 hours through searchlights and intense anti-aircraft fire. He eventually

landed at an aerodrome near the English coast without further damage to his aircraft or injury to his crew.

Air Ministry.

7th July, 1942.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

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

Distinguished Service Order.

Wing Commander Alan Frederick HARDS (33113), No. 206 Squadron.

Wing Commander John Herbert Thomas SIMPSON (24216), No. 70 Squadron.

Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Edric Hartgill MCHARDY, D.F.C. (42139), No. 404 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader Thomas Reece THOMAS (37662), No. 70 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader David Leslie CARTRIDGE (40590), No. 248 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader John Arthur Gordon COATES (74699), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 203 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Cyril Norman CROOK (44550), No. 206 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Edward COTTON (43417), No. 502 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Albert Henry DRAPER (42067), No. 37 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Denys Hilary Farrand HORNER (42567), No. 203 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Eric Bathurst PANTER (42521), No. 70 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Stanley Noel PEARCE (77199), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Flight Lieutenant Frank Anthony ROBINSON (33520).

Flight Lieutenant Clive Stanley George STANBURY (41808), No. 70 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant John William STEWART (70651), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 208 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant John Mervyn LANDER (89078), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 22 Squadron.

Flying Officer John George GREY (N.Z.402864), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 104 Squadron.

Flying Officer Charles Polwart Turnbull HALLIWELL (88473), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 37 Squadron.

Flying Officer Ronald WEST (89405), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 249 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Michael George HORNBY (107952), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 203 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Percy Alexander HUGGINS (102993), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 104 Squadron.

Pilot Officer John HURST (121463), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 603 Squadron.

Pilot Officer John Earle SWINGLER (Can./J.15119), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 38 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

533794 Flight Sergeant Sydney Leslie BEAMONT, No. 209 Squadron.

938357 Flight Sergeant Guy BUTTERFIELD, No. 203 Squadron.

755750 Flight Sergeant Richard Joseph COUCHMAN, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 59 Squadron.

746736 Flight Sergeant (now Pilot Officer) Arthur Maurice CROW, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 235 Squadron.

652547 Flight Sergeant Bernard George KEMP, No. 230 Squadron.

1251253 Flight Sergeant Benjamin Hargrave KNIGHTS, No. 104 Squadron.

984571 Flight Sergeant Geoffrey Paul Rylands, No. 14 Squadron.

745010 Flight Sergeant Gordon WHITFIELD, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 206 Squadron.

743050 Sergeant Kenneth Dudley BOYCE, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 104 Squadron.

N.Z.40223 Sergeant Morris Bruce FEARN, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 14 Squadron.

977481 Sergeant Alexander Rhind HUTCHINSON, No. 148 Squadron.

1376515 Sergeant Edward LOMAS, No. 70 Squadron.

The above awards are for gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations.

AMENDMENTS.

In notification of 11th June, 1942 (p. 2522, col. 2), *for* Warrant Officer P. A. Higgins (359276) *read* Warrant Officer A. Huggins (359276) and (p. 2526, col. 1), *for* 512936 Sergeant A. W. Waite *read* 537577 Sergeant M. D. Waite.

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