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FRIDAY, 23 APRIL, 1943

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1, 23rd April, 1943.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of conspicuous service in operations against the Japanese:—

To be Additional Officers of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order.

Wing Commander Kenneth Thomas NICKLIN (31053), Royal Air Force.

Wing Commander Alan Gordon GRANT (Aus.313), Royal Australian Air Force.

To be Additional Members of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order.

Flight Lieutenant William Irwin MATSON (Aus.2997), Royal Australian Air Force.

Flying Officer Richard Allan James TEMPLE (Aus.5897), Royal Australian Air Force.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1, 23rd April, 1943.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the British Empire Medal (Military Division), in recognition of conspicuous service in operations against the Japanese, to the undermentioned:—

Aus.20750 Acting Corporal Alfred Edward WOODNUTT, Royal Australian Air Force.

Air Ministry, 23rd April, 1943.

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 Flight Lieutenant Sydney CLAYTON, D.F.C., D.F.M. (47870), No. 105 Squadron.

In April, 1943, this officer was the navigator of the leading aircraft of a bomber force which attacked railway installations at Trier in Germany. The operation necessitated a deep penetration into enemy territory in daylight. During the flight extremely bad weather was encountered, making the task of navigating at high speed over hilly terrain hazardous and difficult. With unerring

skill, however, Flight Lieutenant Clayton guided the formation direct to their appointed targets which were heavily and accurately bombed. On this, his 100th sortie, Flight Lieutenant Clayton displayed skill, courage and determination in keeping with his gallant reputation.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Edward Ernest COATE, D.F.C. (Aus. 400695), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 272 Squadron

This officer is an extremely efficient and fearless flight commander. He invariably executes his tasks with great determination, setting a most inspiring example. In attacks on shipping in the harbour at Soussé and in attacks on road and rail transport, Flight Lieutenant Coate has achieved success. In air combat he has destroyed at least nine and damaged several more enemy aircraft. His services have been of great value.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Wing Commander Edward Peter William HUTTON, A.F.C. (37178), No. 221 Squadron.

This officer has completed 35 operational missions, involving anti-submarine patrols, mine laying operations, attacks on shipping and bombing sorties. In January, 1943, in extremely bad weather, he piloted an aircraft detailed to illuminate the harbour at Candia, preparatory to a bombing attack. Whilst over the target area, his aircraft was severely damaged but, displaying great skill and determination, Wing Commander Hutton flew it back to base. One night in February, 1943, he captained an aircraft detailed to search for shipping. In the course of the flight a medium sized merchant vessel, escorted by a destroyer, was sighted. Wing Commander Hutton immediately attacked the merchant ship, obtaining a hit with a torpedo from close range. The vessel sank. By his skilful leadership, great courage and determination, this officer has contributed materially to the fine fighting spirit of the squadron he commands.

Major Gerald John LE MESURIER (102636), South African Air Force, No. 1 (S.A.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer completed much operational flying in the Western Desert, displaying fine leadership and great courage throughout. On one occasion when 14 Stukas were shot down without loss to the squadron, Major Le Mesurier flew with great distinction. His skilful leadership contributed materially to the success achieved. This officer has destroyed one enemy aircraft and probably destroyed several others.