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TUESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY, 1944

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
22nd February, 1944.

The KING has been graciously pleased, on the advice of His Majesty's New Zealand Ministers, 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 an Additional Commander of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:—

Acting Air Commodore Sidney WALLINGFORD,
Royal New Zealand Air Force.

To be an Additional Officer of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:—

Wing Commander Eric Maple LEWIS (N.Z.1022).
Royal New Zealand Air Force.

To be an Additional Member of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:—

Flight Lieutenant Ronald Lindsay MEYNELL
(N.Z.24105), Royal New Zealand Air Force.

Air Ministry, 22nd February, 1944.

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.

Flying Officer Godfrey Arnold MORRISON (150107),
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 550 Squadron.

This officer was the pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin one night in January, 1944. When nearing the target area the aircraft was intercepted by fighters. The bomber came under heavy cannon and machine-gun fire and the mid-upper and rear gunners were killed at the outset of the fight. Flying Officer Morrison succeeded in evading the attackers but his aircraft had been repeatedly hit. One engine was out of action, and the intercommunication system, the compasses and the air speed indicator were useless; all the controls also sustained some damage. In spite of this, Flying Officer Morrison executed a successful bombing attack and afterwards flew the badly damaged aircraft to base. This officer displayed skill and courage of a high order and his iron determination to complete his task successfully set a very fine example.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Group Captain Leslie William Clement BOWER
(26130), Royal Air Force.

This officer has completed numerous sorties and has invariably displayed leadership and skill of a high order. His determination to complete his tasks successfully has always been evident and was well illustrated during a recent sortie. Before reaching the target his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire but he went on to complete his attack. On the return flight the aircraft was again hit by fire from the ground defences. Much damage was sustained, including one engine which was put out of action. Group Captain Bower displayed great skill in his endeavour to reach home but, just before the English coast was reached the damaged engine burst into flames. Group Captain Bower crossed the coast, however, but was compelled to make a landing in difficult circumstances. As the aircraft touched down it became enveloped in flames and a petrol tank burst. Group Captain Bower was rendered unconscious but was dragged clear by a comrade. This officer displayed great courage and resolution throughout.

Acting Squadron Leader William Papillion KEMP
(N.Z.403550), Royal New Zealand Air Force,
No. 227 Squadron.

During operations in North Africa this officer took part in very many sorties, involving attacks on targets ranging from El Alamein to Tunisia; his successes in that theatre include the destruction of a small supply ship and a Junkers 88. More recently, Squadron Leader Kemp has completed many sorties over the Aegean Sea and has achieved excellent results. In January, 1944, he took part in an attack on an enemy vessel escorted by 2 armed ships. During the operation, his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire which rendered all the electrical equipment unserviceable. Nevertheless, Squadron Leader Kemp, who had sustained a wound in the foot from a piece of shrapnel, continued to attack until the operation was successfully completed, all 3 ships being hit and set on fire. Although in much pain and suffering from the loss of blood Squadron Leader Kemp refrained from informing his leader of his injury. Displaying great fortitude and resolution he maintained formation throughout the homeward flight. Not until base was reached was anyone aware of his hurt. Squadron Leader Kemp displayed great courage and devotion to duty setting an example of a high order.

Acting Squadron Leader Charles Woodward SMITH (Can/J.8371), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 408 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed very many sorties, including attacks on most of the enemy's well defended targets. He has invariably displayed skill and courage of a high order and his determination to achieve success has won great praise. He is a most efficient flight commander, whose leadership has been most inspiring.

Acting Squadron Leader John Alexander WHITTETT (84013), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 103 Squadron.

One night in January, 1944, this officer piloted one of a formation of aircraft which attacked Berlin. On the outward flight a fighter was encountered and, in the subsequent engagement, Squadron Leader Whittett's aircraft sustained damage to the tail plane, the port elevator and other parts of the structure; one engine was also put out of action. In spite of this Squadron Leader Whittett out-manoeuvred the attacker and then went on to make a successful attack on the target. Although the aircraft was difficult to control, Squadron Leader Whittett flew safely to base where he effected a safe landing although a tyre on one of the landing wheels had been punctured by a bullet. This officer has invariably displayed praiseworthy skill and courage and his example has proved inspiring.

Flight Lieutenant Albert Edward KILSBY (102086), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 102 Squadron.

One night in January, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft which attacked Berlin. During the operation, his aircraft was attacked by a fighter. One engine was put out of action, the inter-communication system rendered unserviceable and other damage was sustained. Considerable height was lost during the homeward flight but Flight Lieutenant Kilsby succeeded in flying the badly damaged aircraft to base. This officer has completed a very large number of sorties and throughout his courage and determination have always been evident.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Sven Roy Walfrid LAINE (Can/J.18786), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 408 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has taken part in very many sorties, including 10 against the German capital. He is a skilful and resolute captain, whose fine fighting qualities have impressed all. On a recent occasion, whilst over Brunswick, his aircraft was hit and caught fire. Coolly and skilfully, Flight Lieutenant Laine overcame a difficult situation and then pressed home his attack with great determination. His great skill and resolution in trying circumstances contributed largely to the success of the sortie.

Pilot Officer Alan John BODGER (170721), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 576 Squadron.

This officer was the pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin one night in January, 1944. Whilst over the target a fire broke out behind the port inner engine but Pilot Officer Bodger continued his bombing run and executed a successful attack. Shortly after the bombs had been released, two more fires started. Both wings of the aircraft set alight and burned fiercely at first but soon afterwards died away. Although considerable height was lost, Pilot Officer Bodger flew the damaged aircraft to base. In the face of a harassing situation this officer displayed coolness and courage of a high order and his example was most inspiring.

Pilot Officer Frank Willis BURGESS (Can/J.19249), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 61 Squadron.

In December, 1943, this officer was the pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin. On the outward flight one of the aircraft's engines became useless. The rear turret was put out of action and some important equipment became unserviceable. Although the target was still some 250 miles distant, Pilot Officer Burgess continued to the target and made a successful attack, afterwards flying safely to base. His example of determination and devotion to duty was worthy of great praise. Pilot Officer Burgess has completed numerous sorties and has proved himself to be an efficient and understanding captain.

Pilot Officer Edgar Thompson JONES (Can/J.19171), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 103 Squadron.

This officer was the captain of an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin one night in January, 1944. During the operation the aircraft was intercepted by a fighter which attacked with much persistence. Pilot Officer Jones manoeuvred with great skill but his aircraft was repeatedly hit by cannon and machine-gun fire before the enemy aircraft could be evaded. One engine was disabled, the rear and mid-upper turrets were rendered unserviceable, the starboard tail plane, the elevator and the fuselage were damaged, while one of the bomb doors was almost shot away. Some stores caught fire but Pilot Officer Jones jettisoned the burning articles and course was set for home. The aircraft was difficult to control and some height was lost but, displaying great skill and determination, Pilot Officer Jones flew the damaged aircraft to base. In the face of a most trying situation he set a fine example of coolness and courage.

Pilot Officer Leonard Alfred MILLER (169725), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 15 Squadron.

This officer was the pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin one night in January, 1944. Early on the outward flight some important equipment became unserviceable. Nevertheless, Pilot Officer Miller continued to the target and successfully bombed it. Soon afterwards, the aircraft was intercepted by 2 fighters which attacked simultaneously. In the ensuing fight, Pilot Officer Miller manoeuvred with great skill to assist his gunners, who shot down one of the attackers. The bomber has been repeatedly hit, however, and sustained much damage. In spite of this, Pilot Officer Miller flew the aircraft to base. This officer displayed great skill, courage and determination throughout.

Warrant Officer Keith Griffith THOMAS (Aus.411079), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 227 Squadron.

Warrant Officer Thomas has participated in very many sorties, including many attacks on shipping during which he has caused the destruction of 5 caiques and medium sized merchant ship. He is a courageous and resolute pilot, whose keenness for operations has set a praiseworthy example. Warrant Officer Thomas has destroyed one and assisted in the destruction of three more enemy aircraft.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer William Scott BRECKENRIDGE (145784), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 626 Squadron.

Pilot Officer William Benjamin BAKER (170023), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 626 Squadron.

Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (Flying).

Warrant Officer Richard Jack MEEK (Can/R.138466), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 626 Squadron.

Flying Officer Breckenridge, Pilot Officer Baker and Warrant Officer Meek were pilot, mid-upper gunner and navigator respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin one night in January, 1944. Whilst over the target area, the aircraft was hit by bullets from a fighter. Much damage was sustained. The wireless operator was killed and the rear gunner was wounded; Pilot Officer Baker was also wounded, being hit in the face and rendered unconscious. Nevertheless, Flying Officer Breckenridge evaded the attacker and, displaying great determination, resumed his bombing run and successfully attacked the target. Almost immediately the bomber was again hit by machine gun fire from the enemy aircraft which had closed in. This time, Warrant Officer Meek was severely wounded. A bullet penetrated his breast close to the heart and another one hit him in the shoulder. Coolly and skilfully, Flying Officer Breckenridge manoeuvred his badly damaged aircraft, however, and finally evaded the attacker. By now, Pilot Officer Baker had recovered consciousness and, realising that the aircraft was unprotected, immediately made his way to the rear turret and manned it. In spite of his physical suffering, the intense cold and the lack of oxygen, Pilot Officer Baker remained in the turret throughout the homeward flight, except for a short time when he left it to extinguish a fire which had commenced. Meanwhile, Warrant Officer Meek,

though desperately wounded and suffering intensely, refused to leave his post. Although deprived of practically all his navigational equipment he plotted the route home with great skill. Eventually, Flying Officer Breckenridge reached base where he effected a successful crash-landing. His skill, courage and coolness in the face of heavy odds were worthy of the highest praise. Pilot Officer Baker and Warrant Officer Meek proved themselves to be valiant members of aircraft crew, displaying great courage, fortitude and devotion to duty. In spite of their injuries and much suffering they did all that was possible to assist in the safe return of the aircraft.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Aus.418173 Flight Sergeant Geoffrey PRATT, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 44 Squadron.

As air gunner, Flight Sergeant Pratt has taken part in numerous sorties, 5 of them against Berlin. On the last of these attacks against the German capital, his aircraft was intercepted by 2 fighters which attacked almost simultaneously. Nevertheless, Flight Sergeant Pratt skillfully gave the necessary evading directions and afterwards both the attackers were shot down. In this spirited action, Flight Sergeant Pratt rendered excellent service and contributed materially to the success achieved. He is a most determined gunner, whose vigilance and skill have made him a valuable member of aircraft crew.

1392067 Flight Sergeant Harry TODD, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 199 Squadron.

This officer was the navigator of an aircraft detailed for a mine-laying mission one night in January, 1944. On the homeward flight, the aircraft came under fire from an enemy vessel. Flight Sergeant Todd was severely wounded in the leg. Although his wound was bleeding profusely, he held to his post to plot a course until compelled to leave his table so that a tourniquet could be applied to his leg. Afterwards, displaying great fortitude and devotion to duty, Flight Sergeant Todd continued to guide his pilot until he reached an airfield in this country. His exemplary conduct was highly commendable.

Air Ministry, 22nd February, 1944.

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

Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Group Captain Peter Langton DONKIN (33053), Royal Air Force.

Acting Squadron Leader Charles Elliott Sinclair PATTERSON, D.F.C. (87054), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 487 (R.N.Z.A.F.) Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader George Bristow COOKE (83430), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Acting Squadron Leader Geoffrey Milburn ROBINSON (42151), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 456 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Alfred Edward ASHCROFT (112736), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 29 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Royalance Mills CHATFIELD (86417), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 267 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Richard Francis Christopher GARVEY (44811), Royal Air Force, No. 170 Squadron.

Flying Officer Frank Michael HENRY (48844), Royal Air Force, No. 107 Squadron.

Flying Officer Vernon WALL (52519), Royal Air Force, No. 226 Squadron.

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

*Office of the Minister of Defence, Wellington.
22nd February, 1944.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy in the Solomon Islands:—

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Michael James HERRICK, D.F.C. (33566), Royal Air Force.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader John Henry ARKWRIGHT (N.Z.1067), Royal New Zealand Air Force.

Acting Squadron Leader John Anderson OLDFIELD (N.Z.1316), Royal New Zealand Air Force.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Robert Hamish BALFOUR (N.Z.40958), Royal New Zealand Air Force.

Flying Officer Aitken Maxwell DAVIS (N.Z.414719), Royal New Zealand Air Force.

Flying Officer Leonard Adolphus RAYNER (N.Z.411937), Royal New Zealand Air Force.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

N.Z.41450 Flight Sergeant (now Pilot Officer) Trevor Edward GANLEY, Royal New Zealand Air Force.

The KING has also been graciously pleased to give orders for the publication of the names of the following Royal New Zealand Air Force personnel who have been mentioned in despatches:—

Squadron Leaders.

H. C. WALKER, A.F.C. (N.Z.1138).

J. S. NELSON (N.Z.1303) (Acting).

P. G. H. NEWTON (N.Z.1069) (Acting).

Flight Lieutenants.

W. G. C. ALLISON (N.Z.1222).

H. R. WIGLEY (N.Z.1312).

S. R. DUNCAN (N.Z.1307).

A. W. BUCHANAN (N.Z.1304).

M. R. CLARKE (N.Z.391824).

M. W. McCORMICK (N.Z.402198).

J. R. COURT (N.Z.401754).

Flying Officer.

S. L. DUNCAN (N.Z.415297).

Pilot Officer.

F. W. SMITH (N.Z.1865).

Warrant Officer.

J. C. VOSS (N.Z.415391).

Flight Sergeants.

N.Z.404448 A. McDONALD.

N.Z.411703 M. E. WILLIS.

LONDON

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