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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
28th April, 1944.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

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

Acting Squadron Leader Robert Clare Scott (Can/C.646), Royal Canadian Air Force.

One night in December, 1943, a Halifax aircraft crashed in the vicinity of an airfield and burst into flames. Squadron Leader Scott, the station engineer officer, was one of the first to arrive at the scene of the accident and immediately took charge of the rescue party in a cool and efficient manner. Seeing one member of the crew trapped inside the rear turret, he entered the blazing fuselage from the front and walked towards the rear in an endeavour to rescue the airman. Squadron Leader Scott was at first driven back by the heat and smoke but, displaying great determination, he repeated his effort and succeeded in reaching the turret and in passing the injured airman to safety through a hole in the rear. He then ensured that there were no further members of the crew left before he made his way out. Squadron Leader Scott displayed courage and devotion to duty in the face of fire and of the further danger that the petrol tanks might have exploded whilst he was engaged in the rescue. He was undoubtedly responsible for saving the airman's life.

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

Flying Officer Roderick Maton Mackenzie (Aus. 413242), Royal Australian Air Force.

In very harassing circumstances Flying Officer Mackenzie displayed great determination, courage and devotion to duty.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
28th April, 1944.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the George Medal to the under-mentioned:—

Flight Lieutenant George Clayton Abel (Can./J.7526), Royal Canadian Air Force.

In November, 1943, Flight Lieutenant Abel was a member of the crew of an aircraft detailed for an operational sortie. Shortly after taking off the pilot was compelled to make an emergency

landing and, on touching the ground, the aircraft burst into flames. The crew, who had taken crash positions proceeded to leave the aircraft through the emergency exits. Flight Lieutenant Abel, with his companions, had travelled a distance of approximately 60 yards before he realised that one member of the crew, the rear gunner, was missing. The aircraft was blazing furiously and ammunition was exploding; there was also the grave risk of the petrol tanks and the bombs exploding. Flight Lieutenant Abel, ignoring the imminent danger, returned to the aircraft, calling on the other members of the crew to follow him. The rear gunner was discovered trapped in his turret which, together with the exits, had become jammed. Efforts were made to turn the turret but this the rescuers found to be impossible. Flight Lieutenant Abel then smashed the perspex with his bare hands and succeeded in dragging the rear gunner clear of the wreckage. When all were about 20 yards from the aircraft the first bomb exploded, and the aircraft was soon completely destroyed. By his courage and leadership Flight Lieutenant Abel undoubtedly saved his comrade's life at the risk of his own.

1332060 Flight Sergeant Bernard McDonagh, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

In January, 1944, an aircraft caught fire in the air. Flight Sergeant McDonagh, an air gunner (under training), was instructed by the captain to come forward from the rear gun position but, whilst so doing, the aircraft crashed; he was rendered unconscious and thrown up into the fuselage. The aircraft was blazing furiously. Flight Sergeant McDonagh regained consciousness and was able to extricate himself from the blazing wreckage. Although badly dazed and suffering from abrasions to his legs and body, he immediately went to the front of the bomber where he found the pilot who was unconscious in the flames and still strapped in his seat. Flight Sergeant McDonagh succeeded in releasing the pilot and in dragging him to safety. He then returned to the aircraft on two more occasions and rescued the navigator and the air bomber. The latter was unfortunately dead. Flight Sergeant McDonagh's outstanding courage and complete disregard for danger undoubtedly saved two lives.

1399275 Sergeant Leslie William Preston, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

One morning in January, 1944, Sergeant Preston was the navigator of an aircraft which crashed into an electrical transformer and burst into flames. Sergeant Preston sustained facial burns but was thrown clear of the aircraft. The pilot, who was left in the cockpit sustained a broken leg and, although he had released his straps, he was unable

to get out unaided. His cockpit was soon enveloped by the flames. Displaying complete disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Preston returned to the blazing aircraft and, working in the flames, succeeded in dragging the pilot to safety. In so doing Sergeant Preston sustained second degree burns. His gallant and prompt action saved the pilot's life. Sergeant Preston was also involved in a similar accident in November, 1943, when he succeeded in dragging the pilot clear. On this occasion the aircraft did not catch fire but there was a constant possibility of its doing so.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1,
28th April, 1944.*

The KING has been graciously pleased, on the advice of His Majesty's New Zealand Ministers, to approve the award of the George Medal to the undermentioned:—

N.Z.403874 Sergeant Cyril George KENT, Royal New Zealand Air Force.

When a flare accidentally became ignited amongst a stack of bombs and depth charges, Sergeant Kent, well aware that a major explosion was likely, hurried to the spot and endeavoured to remove the flare. In his first attempt he had his left hand burned, but, regardless of his own safety, he persisted and removed the flare, still burning fiercely, to a place of safety. He suffered further severe burns before succeeding in an action which ensured the safety of other personnel, and saved a number of aircraft from almost certain destruction.

Air Ministry, 28th April, 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.

Acting Wing Commander Robert Norman BATESON, D.F.C. (39054); Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 613 Squadron.

This officer has displayed the highest standard of skill and leadership throughout the many and varied sorties in which he has participated. In April, 1944, Wing Commander Bateson flew the leading aircraft of a formation detailed to attack a target in Holland. The operation, which demanded a high degree of courage and determination, was completed with success and reflects the greatest credit on the efforts of this officer, whose leadership was outstanding. His achievements have been worthy of great praise.

Acting Squadron Leader John Leslie MUNRO, D.F.C. (N.Z.413942), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 617 Squadron.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross this officer has completed very many sorties, involving attacks on well defended targets. He has displayed unflinching devotion to duty throughout and his example of gallantry and leadership has inspired all. On many occasions his aircraft has been damaged by enemy action but in every instance, Squadron Leader Munro has flown safely to base. His achievements have been worthy of the greatest praise.

Flight Lieutenant Joseph SINGLETON, D.F.C. (09431), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 25 Squadron.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross this officer has completed very many sorties. Within a short period he has destroyed 5 enemy aircraft at night; 3 of which he shot down in one sortie. On this occasion his aircraft was damaged but he flew it to this country. When nearing an airfield both engines failed and caught fire. Nevertheless, Flight Lieutenant Singleton effected a successful crash-landing. After getting clear, Flight Lieutenant Singleton returned to the burning aircraft and switched off all the electrical circuits. Afterwards, unaided, he succeeded in extinguishing the flames by smothering them with earth. This officer, who displayed a high degree of courage, coolness and devotion to duty, undoubtedly saved his aircraft from becoming a total loss.

Flying Officer Howard Hatherall FARMILOE (157082), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 61 Squadron.

One night in March, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin. When nearing the target the port inner engine caught fire. Two minutes later, the port outer engine became defective and had to be feathered. In spite of this, Flying Officer Farmiloe continued to the target. Much height and air speed were lost, whilst with its full bomb load the aircraft was difficult to control. Nevertheless, Flying Officer Farmiloe maintained a steady course and finally released his bombs over the target. The aircraft was still losing height as course was set for home. Some time later all moveable equipment, including guns and ammunition were jettisoned and the enemy coast was crossed at a height of 6,000 feet. The situation was extremely serious, but Flying Officer Farmiloe resolutely held to his course and the North Sea was safely crossed and an airfield was reached. This gallant pilot displayed outstanding determination in pressing home his attack with one engine on fire and his great skill and coolness in the face of increasing difficulties on the homeward flight set an example of the highest order.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Joseph Charles McCARTHY, D.S.O., D.F.C. (Can/J.9346), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 617 Squadron.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Service Order this officer has completed numerous sorties as captain of aircraft, in which he has taken part in difficult and hazardous operations at low level. Squadron Leader McCarthy has displayed exemplary skill and courage which combined with his unflinching devotion to duty have contributed much to the success achieved.

Flight Lieutenant Alan Derek WAGNER, D.F.C. (65993), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 605 Squadron.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, this officer has completed very many sorties at night and has displayed skill, gallantry and devotion to duty of a high order. One night in March, 1944, whilst over enemy territory, Flight Lieutenant Wagner engaged first a Focke Wulf 190 and then two Messerschmitt 410s, all of which he shot down. In the last of these fights, Flight Lieutenant Wagner pressed home his attack at such close range that his aircraft was enveloped in burning petrol and oil which obscured the windscreen and burned the outer covering of the fuselage and the tail unit. Despite this, Flight Lieutenant Wagner intercepted another enemy aircraft which he attacked with damaging effect. He has now destroyed a further 4 enemy aircraft, all of them at night.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Colin Keith ASTBURY, D.F.C. (Aus.400897), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 617 Squadron.

As air bomber this officer has participated in very many sorties since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and continued to set the highest standard of gallantry and devotion to duty. On many occasions his aircraft has been subjected to fierce fire from the ground defences. Nevertheless, Flight Lieutenant Astbury has executed his task with great coolness and his accurate bombing has played a good part in the success of many sorties. He has rendered much valuable service.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer James Ronald HUGHES, D.F.C. (Can/J.12639), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 254 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer William Arthur BENNEWORTH (129590), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 254 Squadron.

These officers has flown together as pilot and navigator, respectively for more than a year. Both have displayed great skill and determination in their operational missions. One night recently these officers attacked a large and heavily escorted convoy. One of the ships was seen to explode and catch fire. The aircraft was hit by opposing fire and one of the engines failed but these officers skilfully flew back to base where a successful emergency landing was made.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader Ronald George KNOTT (39442), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 179 Squadron.

During his present tour of operational duty this officer has sighted 4 enemy submarines at night and has made determined attacks on 3 of the U-boats. On each of these occasions Squadron Leader Knott pressed home his attack in the face of intense fire from the U-boat's guns. This officer has displayed commendable courage and devotion to duty.

Squadron Leader Charles William McNab NEWMAN (33347), Royal Air Force, No. 613 Squadron.

This officer has completed very many sorties and has invariably displayed great courage and resolution. In April, 1944, Squadron Leader Newman participated in an attack on a target in Holland. The operation called for a high degree of skill and this officer played a worthy part in the success achieved. He has rendered most valuable service.

Acting Squadron Leader Harold Stanley LISSON (Can/J.4330), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 418 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed very many sorties during which he has attacked airfields and installations with success. In air fighting, Squadron Leader Lisson has shot down 2 enemy aircraft at night. His fine fighting qualities have always been evident and he has set an outstanding example of keenness and devotion to duty.

Acting Squadron Leader Michael NEGUS (33574), Royal Air Force, No. 605 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in a very large number of sorties. He has achieved much success, including the destruction of 3 enemy aircraft at night and damaging attacks on ground targets. He is a most efficient flight commander, whose example of determination and devotion to duty has proved most inspiring.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Fred TAYLOR, D.F.M. (126902), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 78 Squadron.

As air gunner, this officer has participated in a large number of sorties, most of which have been against well defended targets in Germany. He is a fearless and determined member of aircraft crew and has destroyed 3 enemy aircraft. In a recent attack on Nuremberg, Flight Lieutenant Taylor's aircraft was engaged by a fighter. In spite of difficulty, this resolute gunner defended his aircraft with great skill and finally with a well placed burst of fire shot the attacker down. His efficiency and coolness in action have set a very fine example.

Flying Officer Joseph BRADBURN (157696), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 44 Squadron.

This officer has completed very many sorties, including 9 attacks on the German capital. In one of these his aircraft was seriously damaged by anti-aircraft fire before reaching the target. In spite of this he went on to complete a successful attack and afterwards flew the damaged aircraft to base. In another attack on the same target, Flying Officer Bradburn's aircraft was intercepted by 2 enemy fighters but he cleverly evaded them and pressed home his bombing attack. Shortly afterwards, the aircraft was attacked by another fighter but Flying Officer Bradburn manoeuvred to a good position and his gunners shot the attacker down. This officer has invariably displayed praiseworthy skill and courage.

Flying Officer Frederick Henry BUNCE (Aus. 424550), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 461 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer was captain of an aircraft which was intercepted by nine Junkers 88's while over the Bay of Biscay. A determined engagement, against these tremendous odds was fought for 20 minutes and was only broken off when Flying Officer Bunce's aircraft was so seriously on fire that the port wing commenced to melt and the aircraft was brought down on to the sea. The force of the impact threw Flying Officer Bunce some 20 yards ahead of his aircraft but after having swum back through the very heavy seas he saw a dinghy break loose from the aircraft and drift away. He immediately dived into the water but his endeavour to reach the dinghy was in vain and he returned to where the aircraft had sunk. After inflating another dinghy this officer got six members of his crew into it and after 48 hours afloat they were rescued. Flying Officer Bunce displayed great courage and fortitude in most harassing circumstances.

Flying Officer Colin Gowans FINLAYSON (Can/J.13956), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 418 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer is an observer of high merit and his fine work throughout the many sorties in which he has taken part has earned great praise. In the course of his tour many airfields and much enemy transport have been successfully attacked. In addition to these successes, Flying Officer Finlayson has assisted in the destruction of 3 enemy aircraft at night and 2 by day. He has displayed great skill, courage and resolution.

Flying Officer Arthur Edmond FRANKLIN (Can/J.14225), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 418 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has taken part in very many sorties, involving attacks on a wide variety of targets. He has displayed great courage and coolness and his high standard of navigational ability has contributed materially to the many successes obtained. His services have been of great value.

Flying Officer Edward Richard HEDGECOCK (86574), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 85 Squadron.

Throughout his tour of operations this officer has displayed great skill and has set the highest standard of determination and devotion to duty. He has shot down 3 enemy aircraft at night.

Flying Officer Robert Campbell MUIR (131832), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 605 Squadron.

As observer, Flying Officer Muir has taken part in a very large number of sorties during which numerous ground targets have been successfully attacked. He is a cool and determined member of aircraft crew and his undoubted skill has played a good part in the results obtained. Flying Officer Muir has also assisted in the destruction of an enemy aircraft.

Flying Officer Eric Thomas ORRINGE (127170), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 605 Squadron.

As observer, this officer has participated in very many sorties at night. He has displayed exceptional skill and has assisted in the destruction of 4 enemy aircraft, 3 of which were shot down in one sortie. He has at all times displayed great keenness and devotion to duty and his example has been most commendable.

Flying Officer Bernard John STANDISH (151666), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 613 Squadron.

This officer has participated in many sorties and has proved himself to be an exceptionally able and resolute member of aircraft crew. In April, 1944, he was the navigator of the leading aircraft of a formation detailed to attack a difficult target in Holland. The operation called for a high degree of skill but, in spite of difficulties, Flying Officer Standish guided his pilot to the exact target with his usual accuracy. His work was worthy of the highest praise and contributed in a good measure to the success achieved. This officer has at all times displayed great determination and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Edward Arthur Thomas TAYLOR (Can/J.20993), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 252 Squadron.

One night in March, 1944, Flying Officer Taylor was detailed for a meteorological flight. Having completed this task, he then flew on to seek enemy aircraft and succeeded in engaging and destroying 2 Junkers 52. At all times this officer has exhibited exceptional courage and determination.

Pilot Officer Ray Thomas Henry MANNING (Aus. 416783), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 44 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Manning has participated in numerous sorties against the most heavily defended enemy targets including 10 attacks against Berlin. During one attack against Berlin, an engine failed soon after crossing the enemy coast on the outward flight. Although it was not possible to attain the allotted altitude given for the attack, this officer flew on to Berlin at a height much below that of the main-bomber force. Before reaching the target the bomber was intercepted by an enemy aircraft which was only evaded after still further height had been lost. Nevertheless, the target was attacked successfully and the aircraft returned safely to base. Pilot Officer Manning has displayed cool courage and great determination in all his operational tasks.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer Arthur James WALKER (140904), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 76 Squadron.

Pilot Officer John Albert BATE (171923), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 76 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1214749 Sergeant Harry VAN DEN BOS, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 76 Squadron.

These officers and airman were rear gunner, flight engineer and mid-upper gunner respectively of an aircraft which attacked Nuremberg one night in March, 1944. Just as the bombs had been released the aircraft was attacked by a fighter. Cannon shell and machine gun bullets struck the bomber, causing a fire to start in the fuselage, starboard mainplane and the main bomb bays; one of the starboard engines was also put out of action. Nevertheless, Flying Officer Walker and Sergeant Van Den Bos maintained their vigilance and as the enemy aircraft closed in to make another attack they drove it off by well directed bursts of fire. Shortly afterwards the fighter again attacked but Flying Officer Walker and Sergeant Van Den Bos defended their aircraft with great skill. Following their accurate bursts of fire the attacker was seen to spiral towards the ground, completely out of control. Meanwhile, Pilot Officer Bate had displayed commendable promptitude in dealing with the fire and quelled the flames by means of extinguishers. On reaching an airfield in this country it was discovered that the undercarriage could not be released. Pilot Officer Bate immediately seized an axe, hacked a way through the fuselage to reach and release the uplock, thus allowing the undercarriage to drop to the down position. His pilot then landed the aircraft safely. In trying circumstances these officers and airman displayed great courage, determination and devotion to duty.

Aus. 410118 Flight Sergeant Eric Emerson HUGHES, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 179 Squadron.

This wireless operator (air) has completed numerous operational sorties during which 4 enemy submarines were sighted; on 3 of which successful attacks were made despite heavy opposing fire from the U-boats. Flight Sergeant Hughes has set an example worthy of emulation.

538508 Flight Sergeant William Edgar Peter WEBB, Royal Air Force, No. 58 Squadron.

This airman has completed 97 operational sorties as a wireless operator (air) and has at all times displayed great skill and devotion to duty which have contributed much to the success of operations in which he has participated.

1158347 Sergeant Eric Percy Lionel MARVIN, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 76 Squadron.

As air gunner, this airman has taken part in many sorties and has proved himself to be a vigilant and resolute member of aircraft crew. On his last sortie he was the rear gunner of an aircraft which attacked Mannheim. During the operation the bomber was intercepted by a fighter. In the ensuing engagement, Sergeant Marvin was severely wounded. He was hit in

both hands, wounded over the left eye and injured in the leg. Nevertheless, he continued firing his guns and the attacker was driven off. Sergeant Marvin was now compelled to leave his turret as his oxygen mask had been torn away. By using his elbows he managed to open the turret and then crawled to the rest position where he supplied himself with oxygen by seizing a tube with his teeth. He afterwards attracted the attention of one of his comrades and received attention. In the face of a most trying ordeal this airman displayed courage, fortitude and determination of the highest order.

Air Ministry, 28th April, 1944.

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

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Warrant Officer Reginald Charles HOWES (1250604), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 227 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1181841 Flight Sergeant Anthony John THOROGOOD, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 227 Squadron.

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND AIR FORCE.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant Gordon Loversidge BONHAM (N.Z.402434), No. 243 Squadron.

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

Air Ministry, 28th April, 1944.

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

Distinguished Service Medal.

1459346 Leading Aircraftman Arthur Percy WHITE.

This airman has participated in a number of rescues and has always been an exceptionally seamanlike and zealous member of the crew of his launch. In June, 1942, he showed great determination when assisting to get 4 badly wounded men from the wardroom of a sinking motor torpedo boat. It was necessary to lash the men to stretchers, which made it a difficult operation to get them out of the wardroom. Subsequently an attempt was made to tow the sinking boat to port and in this Leading Aircraftman White assisted with skill. On another occasion, during the combined operations at Dieppe, this airman's launch was attacked by enemy aircraft and casualties were sustained. Nevertheless he, with other members of his crew, boarded another launch, which had also been attacked and moved the injured members of its crew to his own launch. Later, when the launch was sunk, Leading Aircraftman White sustained the crew by his fortitude and cheerfulness. He is a splendid seaman who has shown great keenness and devotion to his duties.

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