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**TUESDAY, 25 JULY, 1944**

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF  
KNIGHTHOOD.**

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
25th July, 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:—

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

Acting Wing Commander John Joseph Busch (N.Z.1132), Royal New Zealand Air Force.

*To be Additional Members of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:—*

Acting Flight Lieutenant Frederick de Mulford Hyde, A.F.C. (N.Z.1331), Royal New Zealand Air Force.  
Flying Officer Ronald Robert Smith (N.Z.30127), Royal New Zealand Air Force.

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF  
KNIGHTHOOD.**

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
25th July, 1944.*

The KING has been graciously pleased, on the advice of His Majesty's New Zealand Ministers, to approve the award of the British Empire Medal (Military Division) to the undermentioned:—

N.Z.437053 Sergeant Ian William Walther, Royal New Zealand Air Force.

*Air Ministry, 25th July, 1944.*

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

*Bar to Distinguished Service Order.*

Acting Wing Commander Roland Prosper BEAMONT, D.S.O., D.F.C. (41819), R.A.F.O.

This officer by his exceptional skill, brilliant leadership and great drive has quickly built up a fine fighting force whose notable successes are a splendid testimony to their efficiency and resolution. Within a short period recently, Wing Commander Beamont has destroyed 2 enemy aircraft and attacked numerous locomotives, barges and mechanical transport. His record is most impressive.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Wing Commander Wilbur Provence PLEASANCE, D.F.C. (Can/C.1395), R.C.A.F., 419 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Pilot Officer Morley David MCGILL (Can/C.19702), R.C.A.F., 419 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

One night in June, 1944, these officers were pilot and flight engineer respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack the railway junction at Versailles. In the take-off both the port engines faltered at a time when the aircraft had barely left the ground. Wing Commander Pleasance was unable to climb but, by just clearing immediate obstacles and by taking advantage of low-lying ground, he flew on for 20 miles at a height of about 200 feet. By then, Pilot Officer McGill had succeeded in restoring power to the engines and Wing Commander Pleasance went on to the target and bombed it. Both these officers displayed great coolness and skill in a difficult and dangerous situation.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Wing Commander Christopher Smales BARELETT, D.F.C. (39928), R.A.F.O., 434 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

In the course of his second tour of operations this officer has attacked many strongly defended targets, including several attacks on Berlin and numerous others on industrial centres in the Ruhr. He is a forceful and courageous leader whose example has inspired all.

Flight Lieutenant Arthur Ernest UMBERS, D.F.C. (N.Z.404003), R.N.Z.A.F., 3 Sqn.

This officer has led his flight on very many sorties during which military transport, railway communications, ammunition dumps and other targets on the ground have been attacked with excellent results; on one occasion 8 locomotives were destroyed. By his great skill and unbeatable determination, Flight Lieutenant Umbers has played a worthy part in the successes achieved. He is a most inspiring leader.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Squadron Leader Woodward Bowers COOPER (Can/J.4539), R.C.A.F., 226 Sqn.

In his first tour of operations this officer participated in many attacks on enemy shipping and obtained much success. Since then Squadron Leader Cooper has completed many more sorties, including numerous attacks on railway junctions in Northern France with good results. This officer has always evinced the greatest keenness and his example of courage and determination has been most inspiring.

Acting Squadron Leader Harold George BRITAIN, A.F.C. (111488), R.A.F.V.R., 107 Sqn.

This officer has displayed skill, determination and devotion to duty of a high order. He has completed a large number of sorties, including a number of harassing attacks on mechanical transport in the area of the fighting in Normandy. Squadron Leader Britain also took part in a recent successful attack on a number of trucks at the railway sidings at Chatterault. Although one engine of his aircraft became useless early on the homeward flight, Squadron Leader Britain flew safely to base. His fine record is worthy of high praise.

Acting Squadron Leader Michael Roscoe INGLE-FINCH, A.F.C. (84328), R.A.F.V.R., 175 Sqn.

This officer is now on his second tour of operations during which he has participated in many sorties of a varied character. He is a first class leader whose great skill and fine fighting spirit have contributed materially to the operational efficiency of the squadron. He has destroyed one and shared in the destruction of a second enemy aircraft.

Acting Squadron Leader John Granville LINGARD (44774), R.A.F., 143 Sqn.

This officer has completed much operational flying and has set a fine example of keenness and devotion to duty. He has led his flight and sometimes the squadron in numerous attacks on shipping and his great skill and inspiring leadership have contributed in good measure to the success achieved. One morning in June, 1944, he led his flight in an attack on a minesweeper and four R boats. In the fight the minesweeper was set on fire and one of the R boats was sunk. Squadron Leader Lingard has rendered much valuable service.

Flight Lieutenant Kenneth Frederick GEAR (108013), R.A.F.V.R., 181 Sqn.

This officer has taken part in a large number of sorties, including attacks on airfields, bridges, gun positions and other targets. He has invariably displayed a high standard of gallantry, determination, and devotion to duty, setting a fine example to the flight he commands.

Flight Lieutenant Ronald Arthur JOHNSON (116721), R.A.F.V.R., 144 Sqn.

This officer has participated in numerous successful attacks on shipping. He has displayed a high degree of skill, gallantry and determination throughout, qualities which have contributed materially to the successes obtained. He has at all times shown the greatest keenness and his example of devotion to duty has been most commendable.

Flight Lieutenant Peter Stanley PAINE (106054), R.A.F.V.R., 180 Sqn.

This officer has set a fine example of determination and devotion to duty. He is a navigator of high merit and his great skill has played a good part in the success of many of the operations in which he has taken part. Flight Lieutenant Paine has rendered much valuable service.

Flight Lieutenant Patrick Albert POWELL (Can/J. 11222), R.C.A.F., 404 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Albert Harold HODSON (Can/J. 12828), R.C.A.F., 404 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

As navigator and pilot respectively these officers have participated in numerous attacks on enemy shipping. They have displayed skill and co-operation of a high order and have invariably pressed home their attacks with exceptional determination. In June, 1944, they took part in an attack on a naval force of 3 vessels on which serious damage was inflicted. In this as on most occasions these officers displayed praiseworthy courage and resolution.

Flight Lieutenant Arthur Stuart ROSS (Can/C.8323), R.C.A.F., 193 Sqn.

This officer has participated in a very large number of sorties, including attacks on enemy airfields, shipping, railways and mechanical transport. He is a skilful and courageous pilot whose determination to press home his attacks, often in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire, has been most praiseworthy. In air fighting, Flight Lieutenant Ross has destroyed 2 enemy aircraft.

Flight Lieutenant Arthur Gordon SOPWITH, D.F.M. (47587), R.A.F., 226 Sqn.

This officer continues to display a high degree of courage, skill and resolution, qualities which earned him an award of the Distinguished Flying Medal earlier in his operational career. He has

taken part in many sorties, guiding his pilot to dangerous and difficult sorties with unerring skill. His fine work has played a good part in the successes obtained.

Flight Lieutenant Leslie Gilbert SPONG (114062), R.A.F.V.R., 98 Sqn.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties and has displayed high skill, commendable courage and exceptional devotion to duty. On very many occasions he has acted as formation leader and his appreciation of the responsibilities entrusted to him, together with his undoubted ability have played a good part in the successes obtained. He has proved a valuable asset.

Flight Lieutenant James William Hastie WILSON (69484), R.A.F.V.R., 245 Sqn.

This officer has participated in a large number of varied sorties and has displayed a high degree of skill and determination. He is a most efficient flight commander whose keenness to engage the enemy has always been evident and has set an excellent example.

Acting Flight Lieutenant David Anthony Athelston GRAY (131090), R.A.F.V.R., 514 Sqn.

As pilot and captain of aircraft this officer has completed a large number of sorties during which he has attacked the German capital on 6 occasions. On 1 occasion during an attack on the railway junction at Le Mans, Flight Lieutenant Gray's aircraft sustained several hits by anti-aircraft fire. One engine was put out of action and a petrol tank was pierced. Despite this, Flight Lieutenant Gray completed his bombing run. Shortly afterwards a second engine failed but this determined pilot flew on to reach an airfield where he effected a masterly landing. This officer is a highly skilled and gallant member of aircraft crew.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Edward JOLLEYS (160929), R.A.F.V.R., 197 Sqn.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties and has displayed courage and tenacity of a high order. His successes are an excellent testimony to his skill and resolution. Flight Lieutenant Jolleys has set a fine example to all.

Acting Flight Lieutenant William Donald Craig MONTGOMERY (Can/J. 15697), R.C.A.F., 174 Sqn.

This officer has led his flight with great skill and resolution in many attacks on a variety of targets, including airfields, construction works and gun positions. He has displayed the greatest determination in pressing home his attacks and his gallant example has been most inspiring.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Eric Francis WITTING (N.Z. 415212), R.N.Z.A.F., 75 (N.Z.) Sqn.

This officer has proved himself to be an efficient and determined captain whose keenness to engage the enemy has always been evident. He has completed a large number of sorties, involving attacks on a wide variety of well defended targets and has achieved much success. His example has been most commendable.

Flying Officer James Gibson GOW (N.Z. 405053), R.N.Z.A.F., 489 (N.Z.) Sqn.

This officer has completed very many sorties, including many attacks on shipping. One day in May, 1944, he attacked a large merchant vessel obtaining a hit with a torpedo. Eleven days later, Flying Officer Gow attacked a medium sized merchantman and once again obtained a hit. In June, 1944, he participated in an attack on 4 minesweepers. In the fight three of the vessels were set on fire. Throughout his tour, Flying Officer Gow has shown high qualities of skill and gallantry.

Flying Officer Alfred PROCTOR (159096), R.A.F.V.R., No. 75 (N.Z.) Sqn.

As air gunner, Flying Officer Proctor has taken part in a very large number of attacks on enemy targets. He is a keen and efficient member of aircraft crew whose services have been most valuable.

Flying Officer Frederick Ellis SPINK (151832), R.A.F.V.R., 489 (N.Z.) Sqn.

This officer has taken part in many sorties, including numerous attacks on shipping. He is a navigator of exceptional ability and has executed his assignments with great accuracy and precision, factors which have played a good part in the successes obtained. His sterling qualities have impressed all.

Flying Officer John Frederick Hart WILLIAMS (Can/J.17270), R.C.A.F., 198 Sqn.

This officer has proved himself to be a skilful and resolute pilot. He has taken part in a large number of sorties during which he has attacked a wide range of targets and has achieved much success. In air fighting he has shot down 3 enemy aircraft. He has always displayed the greatest keenness to engage the enemy.

Pilot Officer John Douglas HANDBURY (170391), R.A.F.V.R., 75 (N.Z.) Sqn.

Pilot Officer Handbury is a highly efficient and resolute member of aircraft crew. He has taken part in a very large number of sorties and his navigational ability has contributed materially to the successes obtained. He has set a very fine example.

Pilot Officer Robert LANGLEY (172533), R.A.F.V.R., 514 Sqn.

This officer is a most efficient captain and pilot of aircraft. He has completed a noteworthy tour of operations, including 6 attacks on Berlin. On 1 occasion when detailed to attack a target in Germany 2 engines became useless. Nevertheless,

Pilot Officer Langley released his bombs over an enemy airfield and afterwards flew the aircraft home. This officer has invariably displayed a high degree of determination and devotion to duty.

Pilot Officer Alton Robert Ralph MCQUADE (Can/J.19570), R.C.A.F., 419 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties, involving attacks on a wide range of targets. He is a skilful, gallant and determined pilot whose example has greatly inspired his crews. Pilot Officer McQuade has attacked Berlin on 7 occasions.

Pilot Officer Thomas Henry SIMPSON (Aus.408609), R.A.A.F., 88 Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties, many of them against well defended targets and often in bad weather. He has invariably displayed a high standard of gallantry and his example of determination and devotion to duty has been most commendable.

Warrant Officer Bernard EDINBOROUGH (1382058), R.A.F.V.R., 90 Sqn.

In air operations this warrant officer has displayed skill, courage and fortitude of a high order.

## LONDON

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