



FOURTH SUPPLEMENT
TO
The London Gazette
Of TUESDAY, the 25th of JULY, 1944
Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

FRIDAY, 28 JULY, 1944

Air Ministry, 28th July, 1944.

The KING has been graciously pleased to confer the VICTORIA CROSS on the under-mentioned officer in recognition of most conspicuous bravery:—

Flight Lieutenant David Ernest HORNELL (Can/J.7594) (deceased), R.C.A.F. 162 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Hornell was captain and first pilot of a twin-engined amphibian aircraft engaged on an anti-submarine patrol in northern waters. The patrol had lasted for some hours when a fully-surfaced U-boat was sighted, travelling at high speed on the port beam. Flight Lieutenant Hornell at once turned to the attack.

The U-boat altered course. The aircraft had been seen and there could be no surprise. The U-boat opened up with anti-aircraft fire which became increasingly fierce and accurate.

At a range of 1,200 yards, the front guns of the aircraft replied; then its starboard gun jammed, leaving only one gun effective. Hits were obtained on and around the conning-tower of the U-boat, but the aircraft was itself hit, two large holes appearing in the starboard wing.

Ignoring the enemy's fire, Flight Lieutenant Hornell carefully manoeuvred for the attack. Oil was pouring from his starboard engine, which was, by this time, on fire, as was the starboard wing; and the petrol tanks were endangered. Meanwhile, the aircraft was hit again and again by the U-boat's guns. Holed in many places, it was vibrating violently and very difficult to control.

Nevertheless, the captain decided to press home his attack; knowing that with every moment the chances of escape for him and his gallant crew would grow more slender. He brought his aircraft down very low and released his depth charges in a perfect straddle. The bows of the U-boat were lifted

out of the water; it sank and the crew were seen in the sea.

Flight Lieutenant Hornell contrived, by supernuman efforts at the controls, to gain a little height. The fire in the starboard wing had grown more intense and the vibration had increased. Then the burning engine fell off. The plight of aircraft and crew was now desperate. With the utmost coolness, the captain took his aircraft into wind and, despite the manifold dangers, brought it safely down on the heavy swell. Badly damaged and blazing furiously, the aircraft rapidly settled.

After ordeal by fire came ordeal by water. There was only one serviceable dinghy and this could not hold all the crew. So they took turns in the water, holding on to the sides. Once, the dinghy capsized in the rough seas and was righted only with great difficulty. Two of the crew succumbed from exposure.

An airborne lifeboat was dropped to them but fell some 500 yards down wind. The men struggled vainly to reach it and Flight Lieutenant Hornell, who throughout had encouraged them by his cheerfulness and inspiring leadership, proposed to swim to it, though he was nearly exhausted. He was with difficulty restrained. The survivors were finally rescued after they had been in the water for 21 hours. By this time Flight Lieutenant Hornell was blinded and completely exhausted. He died shortly after being picked up.

Flight Lieutenant Hornell had completed 60 operational missions, involving 600 hours' flying. He well knew the danger and difficulties attending attacks on submarines. By pressing home a skilful and successful attack against fierce opposition, with his aircraft in a precarious condition, and by fortifying and encouraging his comrades in the subsequent ordeal, this officer displayed valour and devotion to duty of the highest order.

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

Distinguished Service Order.

Flying Officer Bernard Charles DENOMY (Can/J.11265), R.C.A.F., 162 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer Graham CAMPBELL (Can/J.26921), R.C.A.F., 162 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Flying Officer Sidney Edward MATHESON (Can/J.22227), R.C.A.F., 162 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Can/R.180936 Flight Sergeant Israel Joseph BODNOFF, R.C.A.F., 162 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Can/R.179577 Flight Sergeant Sidney Reginald COLE, R.C.A.F., 162 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

These officers and airmen were members of the crew of the aircraft captained by Flight Lieutenant Hornell, who successfully engaged a U-boat in northern waters. In the engagement they displayed a high degree of courage, discipline and devotion to duty, co-operating splendidly with their captain in his determination to destroy the enemy submarine. Subsequently they suffered great hardships whilst adrift on the sea. During this long period each member of the crew assisted the others to the utmost extent unmindful of his own distress.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD:

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

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

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

Flying Officer Arthur James Thomas Bridgland (48212), Royal Air Force.

In December, 1943, Flying Officer Bridgland was in command of a high speed launch during a raid on Bari Harbour when 2 ammunition ships were blown up, causing great damage and loss of life. At about 2100 hours he took his boat alongside a badly damaged benzine tanker, which was lying less than 100 yards from other burning tankers and exploding ammunition ships, in order to rescue the crew of the damaged tanker. Disregarding his own safety, Flying Officer Bridgland searched along the line of burning vessels and rescued some survivors; he also picked up others from a raft. After landing those whom he had rescued this officer made a second trip to find the engineer of the tanker but in this he was unsuccessful. He picked up another injured man, however, but the latter unfortunately died whilst returning to shore. Flying Officer Bridgland displayed courage of a high order on this occasion and he has invariably set a fine example to all personnel in his unit.

Air Ministry, 28th July, 1944.

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

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commander James Arthur PIDDINGTON (39562) (deceased), R.A.F.O., 429 Sqn., with effect from 26th July 1943.

Flight Lieutenant Harold Cass PEXTON (81650) (deceased), R.A.F.V.R., 35 Sqn., with effect from 28th July 1943.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Charles Bowmer RUSSELL (121731), R.A.F.V.R., 35 Sqn., with effect from 9th Aug. 1943.

Pilot Officer James William EDMONDS (142522) (deceased), R.A.F.V.R., 466 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn., with effect from 2nd July 1943.

Warrant Officer (now Pilot Officer) Archibald GALLOWAY (755177), R.A.F.V.R., with effect from 10th Aug. 1943.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1075889 Flight Sergeant William George JACKETT (deceased), R.A.F.V.R., 35 Sqn., with effect from 10th Aug. 1943.

1066420 Flight Sergeant (now Acting Warrant Officer) Oliver LAMBERT (deceased), R.A.F.V.R., 97 Sqn., with effect from 31st Aug. 1943.

1315801 Flight Sergeant (now Pilot Officer) James Douglas MARKS (deceased), R.A.F.V.R., 97 Sqn., with effect from 29th July 1943.

1344902 Sergeant (now Pilot Officer) Richard Watt BELSHAW (deceased), R.A.F.V.R., 214 Sqn., with effect from 23rd July 1943.

1049564 Sergeant Stanley ROBSON (deceased), R.A.F.V.R., 103 Sqn., with effect from 25th July 1943.

1043895 Sergeant (now Pilot Officer) Derek WILLIAMS (deceased), R.A.F.V.R., 103 Sqn., with effect from 25th July 1943.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Pilot Officer Glenburne George GALVIN (Aus.401208), 35 Sqn., with effect from 9th Aug. 1943.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Can/J.94919 Flight Sergeant Thomas Henry Navin EMERSON (deceased), 405 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn., with effect from 13th July 1943.

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

Air Ministry, 28th July, 1944.

The KING has granted unrestricted permission for the wearing of the undermentioned decorations conferred upon the personnel indicated in recognition of valuable services rendered in connection with the war:—

CONFERRED BY HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF NORWAY.

St. Olav Medal with Oakleaves.

Flight Lieutenant Noel Dudley MACKERTICH, D.F.C. (122152), R.A.F.V.R.

CONFERRED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Legion of Merit (Commander).

Air Chief Marshal Sir Sholto DOUGLAS, K.C.B., M.C., D.F.C., R.A.F.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Group Captain Charles Patrick GREEN, D.S.O., D.F.C., R.A.F.

Group Captain John Alexander POWELL, D.S.O., O.B.E., R.A.F.

Major Edward Usher BRIERLY, D.F.C. (29607), S.A.A.F.

Flight Lieutenant Walter STERNE (75166), R.A.F.V.R.

Flight Lieutenant Reginald Francis HAYES, D.F.C. (60457), R.A.F.

Lieutenant A. M. MILLER (20581), S.A.A.F.
1262678 Sergeant Colin HORNE, R.A.F.V.R.

Air Medal.

Acting Air Vice-Marshal Thomas Melling WILLIAMS, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., D.F.C., R.A.F.

Bronze Star Medal.

Acting Flight Lieutenant William Henry TURNER (124591), R.A.F.V.R.

LONDON

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
York House Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 13a Castle Street, Edinburgh 2;
39-41 King Street, Manchester 2; 1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
80 Chichester Street, Belfast;
or through any bookseller

1944

Price Sixpence net

S.O. Code No 65-36630