

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
1st September, 1944.*

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

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

Squadron Leader John Harvey Curry, D.F.C. (Can/C.2645), Royal Canadian Air Force.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
1st September, 1944.*

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

Flight Lieutenant Alfred George Spencer (89044), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Flying Officer Albert Arthur (145518), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

One day in February, 1944, an aircraft, carrying a 500 lb. bomb and incendiaries, crashed near a Royal Air Force Station, and immediately caught fire. Flying Officer Arthur, a gunnery instructor, was soon on the scene and, despite the great heat and exploding ammunition, he attempted to rescue the crew. Shortly afterwards he was joined by Flight Lieutenant Spencer, the station medical officer. The wreckage was blazing from end to end and several times these officers were compelled to break off their rescue attempts. Flying Officer Arthur entered the burning aircraft no less than four times, with a handkerchief tied round his nose and mouth. At the fourth attempt, he was driven back by the heat and flames, his eyebrows being burnt off and his right trouser leg and pocket burnt. Flight Lieutenant Spencer stayed close at hand and searched in the wreckage for possible survivors. It was not until the bombs were red hot and Flight Lieutenant Spencer was certain that the crew must be dead from the heat that these officers abandoned their efforts. They then warned the fire party to withdraw and cleared the area of spectators just before the 500 lb. bomb exploded. Although the attempts of these officers to rescue the crew were in vain, they displayed high courage and a complete disregard of their own safety.

*Air Ministry, 1st September, 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 Douglas IVESON, D.F.C. (86384), R.A.F.V.R., 76 Sqn.

This officer is an outstanding squadron commander whose magnificent leadership, great courage and zeal have inspired all. Since being awarded a Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross, Wing Commander Iveson has completed many bombing missions against dangerous and difficult targets and the successes obtained reflect the greatest credit on the skill and resolution of this officer. He has rendered much loyal and devoted service.

Acting Wing Commander Denis Graham SMALLWOOD, D.F.C. (40645), R.A.F.O.

This officer has displayed the highest standard of skill and gallantry in air operations. He has participated in a very large number of sorties in which he has led large formations of aircraft on a variety of missions. By his great tactical ability, fine fighting qualities and gallant leadership, he has contributed materially to the successes obtained. In addition to his work in the air, Wing Commander Smallwood has devoted much of his technical knowledge towards the training of other members of the squadron with good results. His devotion to duty has been unflinching.

Acting Wing Commander John Groves TOPHAM, D.F.C. (41882) R.A.F.O., 125 Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of operational flying hours since being awarded a

Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross. His knowledge of all aspects of night fighting tactics is profound and his example of courage and tenacity has impressed all. Fourteen enemy aircraft have fallen to his guns at night.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant Joseph BERRY, D.F.C. (118435), R.A.F.V.R.

Flight Lieutenant Berry is a highly skilled and resolute pilot. He has completed a very large number of sorties and throughout his keenness and devotion to duty have been exceptional. This officer has, within a short period, destroyed numerous flying bombs.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Robert Durham RUTTER (42574), R.A.F., 263 Sqn.

This officer has rendered most valuable service. He did excellent work until he was severely wounded in an encounter with an enemy fighter towards the end of 1940. His zest for operations remained unabated and, since his recovery, Squadron Leader Rutter has participated in a large number of sorties, involving attacks on enemy shipping, airfields, railway installations and other targets on the ground. By his skilful leadership, masterly tactics and iron determination he has played a prominent part in the successes obtained.

Flight Lieutenant Thomas CONDON (Aus. 404399), R.A.A.F., 456 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

As observer, Flight Lieutenant Condon has participated in a very large number of sorties and has displayed the highest standard of skill, determination and devotion to duty throughout. He has assisted in the destruction of 5 enemy aircraft at night.

Flight Lieutenant Stanley Herbert Ross COTTERILL (Can/J.4874), R.C.A.F., 418 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed numerous sorties, and has set a fine example of skill, courage and resolution. One night in June, 1944, Flight Lieutenant Cotterill shot down 4 enemy aircraft over an area in Northern France, a feat which testifies to his exceptional keenness and determination. On other occasions, Flight Lieutenant Cotterill has operated against enemy airfields and railway installations with success.

Flight Lieutenant Charles Henry LATTIMER (N.Z.403964), R.N.Z.A.F., 234 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Lattimer has displayed skill, gallantry and devotion to duty of a high order. He is a most efficient flight commander, whose many fine qualities have been reflected in the success of the formation he commands. Flight Lieutenant Lattimer has participated in a large number of varied sorties and his keenness has always been evident. He has destroyed at least 4 enemy aircraft.

Acting Flight Lieutenant John Barrie PURKIS (158700), R.A.F.V.R., 263 Sqn.

This officer has participated in very many sorties, including numerous attacks on enemy airfields and railway installations; he has also recently taken part in several successful attacks on enemy shipping and has contributed materially to the successes obtained. He is a most efficient flight commander, whose brave and resolute example has been most inspiring.

Flying Officer Stanley Harry HATSELL (151901), R.A.F.V.R., 605 Sqn.

This officer is a highly skilled and resolute member of aircraft crew. He has taken part in very many sorties, during which a variety of targets on the ground have been attacked with good results; he has also assisted in the destruction of 2 enemy aircraft in the air at night. He has at all times displayed the greatest keenness and devotion to duty and his example has been most commendable.

Flying Officer Harold Medd PROCTOR (159873), R.A.F.V.R., 263 Sqn.

This officer has participated in a large number of sorties, including numerous successful attacks on enemy shipping. He has displayed notable skill and has invariably pressed home his attacks with the greatest determination, often in the face of considerable anti-aircraft fire. He is an extremely able section leader, whose fine fighting qualities and good judgment have set an excellent example.