



FOURTH SUPPLEMENT
TO
The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY, the 24th of OCTOBER, 1944

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

FRIDAY, 27 OCTOBER, 1944

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF
KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1,
27th October, 1944.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards of the GEORGE CROSS, the George Medal and the British Empire Medal (Military Division) to the undermentioned:—

Awarded The GEORGE CROSS.

Air Commodore Arthur Dwight Ross, O.B.E., Royal Canadian Air Force.

Awarded the George Medal.

- Can/R.96959 Flight Sergeant Joseph Rene Marcel St. Germain, Royal Canadian Air Force.
- Can/R.87217 Corporal Maurice Marquet, Royal Canadian Air Force.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal
(Military Division).*

- Can/R.273581 Leading Aircraftman Melvin Muir McKenzie, Royal Canadian Air Force.
- Can/R.188008 Leading Aircraftman Robert Rubin Wolfe, Royal Canadian Air Force.

One night in June, 1944, an aircraft, while attempting to land, crashed into another which was parked in the dispersal area and fully loaded with bombs. The former aircraft had broken into 3 parts and was burning furiously. Air Commodore Ross was at the airfield to attend the return of aircraft from operations and the interrogation of aircrews. Flight Sergeant St. Germain a bomb aimer, had just returned from an operational sortie and Corporal Marquet was in charge of the night ground crew, whilst leading Aircraftmen McKenzie and Wolfe were members of the crew of the crash tender. Air Commodore Ross with the assistance of Corporal Marquet, extricated the pilot who had sustained severe injuries. At that moment ten 500 lb. bombs in the second aircraft, about 80 yards away, exploded, and this officer and airman were hurled to the ground. When the hail of debris had subsided, cries were heard from the rear turret of the crashed aircraft. Despite further explosions from bombs and petrol tanks which might have occurred, Air Commodore Ross and Corporal Marquet returned to the blazing wreckage and endeavoured in vain to swing the turret to release the rear gunner. Although the port tail plane was blazing furiously, Air Commodore Ross hacked at the perspex with an axe and then handed the axe through the turret to the rear gunner who enlarged the aperture. Taking the axe again the air commodore, assisted now by Flight Sergeant St. Germain as well as by Corporal Marquet, finally broke the perspex steel frame

supports and extricated the rear gunner. Another 500 lb. bomb exploded which threw the 3 rescuers to the ground. Flight Sergeant St. Germain quickly rose and threw himself upon a victim in order to shield him from flying debris. Air Commodore Ross's arm was practically severed between the wrist and elbow by the second explosion. He calmly walked to the ambulance and an emergency amputation was performed on arrival at station sick quarters. Meanwhile, Corporal Marquet had inspected the surroundings, and seeing petrol running down towards two nearby aircraft, directed their removal from the vicinity by tractor. Leading Aircraftmen McKenzie and Wolfe rendered valuable assistance in trying to bring the fire under control and they also helped to extricate the trapped rear gunner both being seriously injured by flying debris.

Air Commodore Ross showed fine leadership and great heroism in an action which resulted in the saving of the lives of the pilot and rear gunner. He was ably assisted by Flight Sergeant St. Germain and Corporal Marquet who both displayed courage of a high order. Valuable service was also rendered by Leading Aircraftmen McKenzie and Wolfe in circumstances of great danger.

Air Ministry, 27th October, 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.

Wing Commander Robert Vivian Lansdell PATTISON, D.F.C. (34110), R.A.F., 100 Sqn.

This officer has displayed exceptional skill and great gallantry. His leadership has been outstanding and has inspired the squadron he commands. Wing Commander Pattison has executed many sorties on which he has taken new crews whom he has imbued with great confidence.

Acting Wing Commander Howard Allan MORRISON, D.F.C. (Can/J.4898), R.C.A.F., 405 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

In September, 1944, Wing Commander Morrison captained an aircraft detailed to attack Le Havre. Whilst over the target, heavy and accurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered. Undeterred this captain endeavoured to press home his attack. His aircraft was hit and sustained serious damage. The aircraft became almost uncontrollable. A fire started and the fuselage became filled with smoke. The flames spread quickly and it was evident that the aircraft could not be saved. Displaying great coolness, Wing Commander Morrison ordered his crew to leave by parachute. He, himself, would