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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
28th November, 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 Officer of the Military Division
of the said Most Excellent Order:—*

Major Carl Frederick Geer (P.102995V), South African Air Force.

In August, 1944, Major Geer was giving dual instruction in an aircraft when it crashed, broke in two, and burst into flames. Although injured, Major Geer was able to extricate himself from the wreckage but soon realised that his pupil had not got free. Despite exploding ammunition, and well knowing that the petrol tanks might blow up at any minute, this officer re-entered the blazing fuselage, unfastened his companion's harness and took him to safety. In the process, Major Geer sustained burns on the face and arms but his prompt and courageous action saved the pupil's life.

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

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

Flight Lieutenant George Michael Carmichael (33339), Royal Air Force.

Captain Jeffery Morphey (102701), South African Air Force.

Flying Officer Francis Henry Greenaway (N.Z.42296), Royal New Zealand Air Force.

Air Ministry, 28th November, 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 Group Captain Henry John CUNDALL, D.F.C., A.F.C. (33384), R.A.F., 105 Sqn.

This officer has participated in a large number of sorties since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, and throughout he has displayed a high standard of bravery and devotion to duty. Group Captain Cundall's squadron has executed many sorties recently and much of the success achieved can be attributed to this officer's careful planning, great skill and unbeatable determination.

Acting Wing Commander Alan Frederick AVANT, D.F.C. (Can/J.10503), R.C.A.F., 427 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed numerous sorties on his second tour of operational duty. He is a highly skilled and fearless squadron commander, whose gallant leadership has been well reflected in the fighting qualities of the squadron. His devotion to duty over a long period has been unflinching.

Wing Commander John Francis GREY, D.F.C. (37767), R.A.F., 207 Sqn.

This officer has, by his gallant example, inspired and maintained a high degree of confidence amongst his aircrews. On 10 occasions his aircraft has been engaged by enemy fighters, 7 of which were shot down in the ensuing fights. The successes obtained are a fine tribute to Wing Commander Grey's great skill and leadership in action. This officer has commanded the squadron with great success.

Acting Squadron Leader Leo Allen DWEN (122987), R.A.F.V.R., 156 Sqn

This officer is a fearless and skilful captain of aircraft. He has completed a large number of sorties, many of them against dangerous and difficult targets. He has invariably pressed home his attacks with great skill and resolution, qualities which have brought him much success. He is a fine captain of aircraft, whose devotion to duty has been untiring.

Acting Squadron Leader Reginald Frank GRIFFIN, D.F.C. (47170), R.A.F., 156 Sqn.

This officer has displayed the highest standard of skill, courage and devotion to duty in air operations. As observer he completed a very large number of sorties before joining his present squadron. Since then, Squadron Leader Griffin has completed many more sorties in the capacity of pilot and captain and has attacked a variety of targets with success. A fearless and determined captain of aircraft, Squadron Leader Griffin has set an example of the highest order.

Acting Squadron Leader John Naunton ROWLAND, D.F.C. (33577), R.A.F., 625 Sqn.

This officer has displayed great keenness, skill and courage in his capacity as captain of aircraft. Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross Squadron Leader Rowland has participated in numerous sorties, involving attacks on a wide range of targets important to the enemy's war effort. He has invariably pressed home his attacks with the greatest determination and his successes have been well illustrated by the photographs secured. In addition to his fine work in the air, this officer has rendered valuable service in the training of other members of the squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Harry Alexander SCOTT, D.F.C. (47821), R.A.F., 109 Sqn.

This officer has participated in well over one hundred operational missions against the enemy. He is an observer of the highest standard and his brilliant work has been an important factor in the success of many operations. He has displayed outstanding coolness and courage in the face of the heaviest opposition and his example has inspired all. His record is outstanding.

Acting Squadron Leader Stanley SLATER, D.F.C. (145503), R.A.F.V.R., 576 Sqn.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross this officer has participated in very many sorties, including attacks on such targets as Berlin, Frankfurt, Stuttgart and Kiel. He has continued to display the highest standard of skill and bravery and has set a fine example to all. He has commanded his flight with much success and his untiring efforts, strong sense of discipline and fine fighting qualities have contributed in good measure to the operational efficiency of the formation.

Acting Squadron Leader John Cunningham THELWELL, D.F.C. (115063), R.A.F.V.R., 109 Sqn.

Squadron Leader Thelwell has completed more than 100 sorties. In the course of his assignments he has attacked a wide range of important and well defended targets and his successes are an excellent testimony to his great skill, courage and tenacity. He has rendered much devoted and loyal service.

Acting Squadron Leader David James Baikie WILSON, D.F.C. (113429), R.A.F.V.R., 617 Sqn.

This officer has taken part in numerous missions over enemy territory, including attacks on Berlin, Hamburg, Bremen, Cologne and Mannheim. He is now on his third tour and has completed many sorties demanding a high standard of skill and accuracy. He has proved himself to be an ideal leader and his example has been most inspiring.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Don Allister DUNCANSON (Can/J.12204), R.C.A.F., 144 Sqn.

This officer has set a fine example of keenness and courage. In October, 1944, he flew the leading aircraft of a small formation which attacked a convoy of five merchantmen escorted by several armed ships. In the face of considerable anti-aircraft fire, Squadron Leader Duncanson led in his formation with great skill and determination. Although wounded in the foot when his aircraft was hit, Squadron Leader Duncanson pressed home his attack and afterwards flew safely to base. This officer has completed many sorties and has displayed exceptional devotion to duty throughout.

Acting Squadron Leader Rupert Gordon Westley OAKLEY, D.F.M. (61011), R.A.F.V.R., 627 Sqn.

One night in September, this officer participated in an attack on the Dortmund-Ems Canal. To ensure success a high degree of accuracy was essential. Although this narrow waterway was strongly defended, Squadron Leader Oakley pressed home his attack with great skill and released his bombs with precision at the second attempt. His courage and determination were typical of that which he has shown on many other occasions when attacking well defended targets.

Flight Lieutenant Jack Leonard POWER (Can/J.12254), R.C.A.F., 144 Sqn.

This officer has participated in many sorties and has displayed a high degree of skill, courage and tenacity. In October, 1944, he took part in an attack on an enemy convoy. In the face of intense anti-aircraft fire, Flight Lieutenant Power pressed home his attack with great determination and obtained a hit on a merchant vessel. His fine work in this spirited action won high praise.

Flight Lieutenant Alexander Cameron GALLACHER (131644), R.A.F.V.R., 141 Sqn.

Pilot Officer George McLEAN (182474), R.A.F.V.R., 141 Sqn.

As pilot and observer respectively, these officers have participated in a large number of sorties. They have displayed a high degree of skill and co-operation and have proved themselves to be gallant and resolute members of aircraft crew. Their successes include the destruction of two enemy aircraft.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Peter Graham BROWN (N.Z.414839), R.N.Z.A.F., 115 Sqn.

In October, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Saarbrücken. Soon after leaving the airfield the port inner engine became defective. Despite this, Flight Lieutenant Brown went on to the target which he attacked successfully. Early on the return flight a starboard engine caught fire and became useless. Nevertheless, this pilot flew on to this country. Almost as an airfield was reached the defective port engine failed completely, but Flight Lieutenant Brown effected a masterly landing. This officer has invariably displayed a high degree of skill and courage.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Alfred John OSBORNE (173782), R.A.F.V.R., 115 Sqn.

This officer has completed numerous sorties, including an attack on Saarbrücken which he was detailed to attack one day in October, 1944. On this occasion the air speed indicator became unreliable soon after taking off. A little later the instrument became useless. This did not deter Flight Lieutenant Osborne from continuing his mission and, displaying notable skill and resource, he reached the target almost at the estimated time of arrival. He set a fine example of determination and devotion to duty throughout.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Ross HUTCHINSON (Aus.415903), R.A.A.F., 578 Sqn.

Flying Officer Harold Wood DALTON (151754), R.A.F.V.R., 578 Sqn.

These officers were pilot and air bomber respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack an oil refinery at Sterkrade in daylight in October, 1944. When nearing the target the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. Control was temporarily lost. The port outer engine caught fire and became useless. Coolly and skilfully, Flight Lieutenant Hutchinson regained control. Thereupon, Flying Officer Dalton directed the bombing run and attacked the target with great precision. Despite the loss of engine power, Flight Lieutenant Hutchinson flew the damaged bomber to base. These officers displayed great skill, coolness and tenacity and the success of their attack was well proven by the excellent photograph which they secured.

Flying Officer Maurice Herbert EXTON (133665), R.A.F.V.R., 144 Sqn.

Flying Officer Exton has completed many sorties. He is a most skilful pilot whose example of courage and tenacity has been inspiring. In October, 1944, he took part in an attack on a convoy consisting of several merchant vessels, escorted by five armed ships. In the run-in Flying Officer Exton's aircraft was hit and sustained much damage. The port aileron was affected, making the aircraft difficult to control. In spite of this, Flying Officer Exton pressed home his attack and afterwards flew the damaged aircraft safely to base. He displayed outstanding skill and determination.

Pilot Officer William Lachlan McGOWN (174120), R.A.F.V.R., 514 Sqn.

In air operations this officer has displayed outstanding bravery, fortitude and devotion to duty.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer Ronald Ernest AMEY (146973), R.A.F.V.R., 50 Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1682895 Sergeant George William LANE, R.A.F.V.R., 50 Sqn.

This officer and airman were pilot and wireless operator (air) of an aircraft detailed to attack Bremen one night in October, 1944. Whilst over the target an explosion occurred inside the bomber which quickly became filled with smoke whilst several fires commenced. The navigator was severely injured. In the face of an apparently serious situation Flying Officer Amey gave the order to prepare to abandon aircraft. Only then did he become aware of the plight of his wounded comrade. He promptly rescinded the order to abandon and attempted to regain control of the aircraft. He succeeded in so doing. Meanwhile Sergeant Lane made great efforts to put out the fires. By using extinguishers, then dousing the flames with tea from flasks and even beating out the flames with

his hands he finally succeeded. Although deprived of the services of the navigator, Flying Officer Amey set course for home. Eventually an airfield was reached and a safe landing was effected. Throughout the return flight Sergeant Lane gave invaluable service to his captain. His hands had been badly burned but he worked his wireless apparatus with great skill to obtain bearings which established the position of the aircraft at various stages of the flight. In most harassing circumstances, Flying Officer Amey and Sergeant Lane displayed great courage, coolness and determination.

Air Ministry, 28th November, 1944.

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

Bar to Air Force Cross.

Squadron Leader Anthony Featherstonehaugh MARTINDALE, A.F.C. (73005), R.A.F.V.R.

This officer has been engaged as a test pilot in diving aircraft at high speeds. In the course of one such dive his aircraft had exceeded a speed of 600 m.p.h. when it caught fire. Realising that he was over the outskirts of a large town Squadron Leader Martindale remained at the controls and headed for open country. The fire died down and he decided to try and reach base although flames

still came into the aircraft. Dense cloud obscured the base airfield and Squadron Leader Martindale was compelled to attempt a forced landing in a field. When making the approach to land, oil over his windscreen prevented this officer from seeing high tension cables directly in his path, until he was almost on them. He had no alternative but to crash in a wood. The aircraft burst into flames but Squadron Leader Martindale was able to get clear. After removing his parachute he returned to the burning aircraft, retrieved the recording apparatus and, although injured in the spine, kept onlookers clear until the local fire brigade arrived. This officer's courage in remaining at the controls undoubtedly saved lives and damage to property, whilst his bravery in returning to his aircraft made available the data recorded on this test.

AMENDMENT.

In notification of 14th Nov. 1944 (p. 5208, col. 1). Distinguished Flying Medal. Flight Sergeants ~~Delete~~ 1670919 Thomas William POWELL, R.A.F.V.R., 9 Sqn. Award previously announced on 19th Sept. 1944 (p. 4331, col. 1).

In notification of 17th Nov. 1944 (p. 5281, col. 2). Distinguished Flying Cross. ~~Delete~~ Flying Officer Peter Francis CARLISLE (50607), R.A.F., 206 Sqn., and relevant citation. Award previously announced on 3rd Nov. 1944 (p. 5036, col. 1).&

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