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TUESDAY, 11 DECEMBER, 1945

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
11th December, 1945.*

The KING has been graciously pleased, on the advice of His Majesty's Canadian Ministers, to give orders for the following appointment to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

To be an Additional Member in the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order.

Flight Lieutenant Paul Norton HIGGINS (J.23407),
Royal Canadian Air Force.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
11th December, 1945.*

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

Awarded the George Medal.

Pilot Officer Howard Vincent McLEAN (J.36349),
Royal Canadian Air Force.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Military Division).

R.275318 Aircraftman 1st Class William Frederick NIGHTINGALE, Royal Canadian Air Force.

Air Ministry, 11th December 1945.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations:—

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Thomas William WATSON (Can/J.6206), R.C.A.F., No. 159 Sqn.

Squadron Leader Watson has a fine operational record. In the early stages of the fighting in the Far Eastern theatre, he completed very many sorties, flying in fighter aircraft and was responsible for the destruction of at least two enemy aircraft. Three times this officer was himself shot down. On the last of these occasions he succeeded in escaping from Java just a few hours before the arrival of the enemy troops in the area. Some two years later, Squadron Leader Watson converted to heavy bomber aircraft in which type he has completed many attacks on various targets. On three separate occasions, vital bridges on the Bangkok-Singapore line were destroyed largely by the accurate bombing and repeatedly determined attacks of Squadron Leader Watson. This officer has set an outstanding example of courage and tenacity.

Flight Lieutenant Benjamin George HEWSON (Can/J.10354), R.C.A.F., 357 Sqn.

This officer has an outstanding record of operational flying. He has completed 51 sorties against

targets in Burma and Siam. On one occasion in June, 1945, he undertook a sortie in the Bangkok area. Extremely adverse weather prevented him finding the exact area. Nevertheless he followed the railway line a distance of 120 miles in order to locate his objective. The route he followed was very heavily defended and took him directly over two enemy occupied airfields. The operation, however, was a complete success. As a deputy flight commander this officer, by his ability and leadership, has contributed largely to the success of the flight.

Warrant Officer David THOMAS (1673541),
R.A.F.V.R., 209 Sqn.

As air gunner, Warrant Officer Thomas has participated in very many operational missions. He has invariably displayed the highest standard of skill and coolness. These qualities were well evidenced during a sortie in August, 1945. On this occasion he was the front gunner in a Sunderland aircraft when an armed enemy lugger was sighted. The fire from the guns of Warrant Officer Thomas were so effective that the enemy were prevented from manning their guns. A series of attacks were made and fresh fires were started on every run. The crew eventually abandoned the vessel, which after a series of explosions was reduced to a blazing hulk. The success of the attack was due in the main to the effectiveness of this Warrant Officer's brilliant shooting. His determination in the face of the enemy set an inspiring example to the rest of the crew.

Air Ministry, 11th December, 1945.

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

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader.

Peter Henry STEMBRIDGE, D.F.C., A.F.C. (118184),
R.A.F.V.R., 3 Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commander.

George McKENZIE (42855), R.A.F.O., 160 Sqn.

Acting Squadron Leaders.

Basil Frederick GOOCH DARBY (121281), R.A.F.V.R.,
87 Sqn., with effect from 7th March, 1945 (since deceased).

Ralph Stidston DON (81348), R.A.F.V.R., 142 Sqn.,
with effect from 21st January, 1945 (since deceased).

Douglas Frederick REDRUP (124213), R.A.F.V.R., 8 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenants.

Foster Ferrier Harvey CHARLTON (152384),
R.A.F.V.R., 8 Sqn.

Leonard Rees DAVIDSON (120797), R.A.F.V.R., 160 Sqn.

John Kerridge HASELDEN (79795), R.A.F.V.R.

John Edward SHANNON (87419), R.A.F.V.R., 166 Sqn., with effect from 31st January, 1945 (since deceased).