



THIRD SUPPLEMENT
TO
The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY, the 2nd of APRIL, 1946

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

FRIDAY, 5 APRIL, 1946

Air Ministry, 5th April, 1946.

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

Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Wing Commander Alan Douglas GROOM (37075), Royal Air Force.

During the period 27th October to 31st October, 1945, Wing Commander Groom was working with the 49th Indian Infantry Brigade at Sourabaya, Java. Throughout this period the city was in the hands of an uncontrolled mob who, with Indonesian Forces, launched continual and fanatical attacks against points held by detachments of Indian troops. The fighting was very bitter and lone men, or small parties making their way to safety, were butchered under circumstances of the utmost barbarity; British officers were dragged from their cars and murdered. Wing Commander Groom, in view of his personal knowledge of the Indonesian leaders, their language and acquaintance with the freedom movement, volunteered to act as Liaison Officer. He completely ignored the extreme danger to his life, moving unarmed from area to area in which fighting was taking place and parleying with the frenzied mobs and their irresponsible leaders. Wing Commander Groom was threatened, abused and manhandled yet, despite fatigue, he continued unsparingly for 36 hours in his attempts to stop the attacks on our troops. By his efforts a number of engagements were brought to a close, and the movement of small bodies of troops to greater safety was successfully arranged. Wing Commander Groom afforded inestimable help to the Brigade Commander. By his sustained gallantry and resolution he saved many lives and set an example that was an inspiration to all.

Military Cross.

Flight Lieutenant Frederick Markham BALL (186106), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Flight Lieutenant Ball was parachuted into Java in September, 1945, and, by his tact and skill in negotiating with the Japanese and Indonesians, obtained facilities in regard to the urgently needed food and transport for the Rawpi. On the 20th October, 1945, fighting occurred at Semarang between Japanese and Indonesians. A complete state of anarchy existed over the whole area, seriously threatening the lives of 24,000 Rawpi. In order that information concerning the state of affairs which existed should reach Batavia, Flight Lieutenant Ball forced his way past 60 barricades from Ambarwa to Magelang and then flew a Japanese light aircraft to Batavia. Here he was able to give valuable information, thus enabling

troops to be sent to Samarang in time to save the situation. Flight Lieutenant Ball was then appointed to command the Rawpi in Magelang. When the town was evacuated owing to the fighting, he remained behind in order to negotiate for the safety of 2,500 Eurasians and Ambonnees refugees. Throughout the long and dangerous period Flight Lieutenant Ball continually carried his life in his hands and his performance of his duties was an inspiration to all.

Military Medal.

579104 Corporal John William FRANKISH, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Corporal Frankish took over the duties of Rawpi Liaison Officer at Djocjakarta, the main centre of the Indonesian extremist movement on 30th September, 1945. He commanded the airfield and maintained the communication flight of light aircraft. Corporal Frankish also negotiated with the Chief of Police and the Sultan of Djocjakarta, securing the release of a large number of Japanese airport personnel who had been disarmed and thrown into prison by the Indonesians. When the airfield was attacked he remained at his post, organising the flight therefrom of serviceable aircraft. During the fighting at Magelang Corporal Frankish operated a wireless set for 70 hours. Throughout the long and dangerous period Corporal Frankish performed his duties often under fire, displaying outstanding courage, initiative and strength of character.

Air Ministry, 5th April, 1946.

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

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader.

Henry Archibald JENKINS (44195), R.A.F., 215 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenants.

Harry Sydney BEARD (136574), R.A.F.V.R., 215 Sqn.

Edwin Frederick BROWN (152167), R.A.F.V.R., 215 Sqn.

John Simm HARTLEY (153125), R.A.F.V.R., 117 Sqn.

Ian Cable McLENNAN (174948), R.A.F.V.R., 215 Sqn.

Alexander William ROBERTS (133538), R.A.F.V.R., 215 Sqn.

Flying Officers.

William Lewis Henry GREENWOOD (150538), R.A.F.V.R., 117 Sqn.

Norman Leonard RILEY (163952), R.A.F.V.R., 117 Sqn.