

G.T.R.

Lt. (Q.G.O.) SUKRABAHADUR RAI (484672) (12th Oct. 1967).

ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS

Capt. M. J. BRYANT (478123) (20th Jul. 1967).

*Lt. (now Capt.) M. H. GUYMER (434177) (10th Jul. 1956).

* *Qualified in R.A.S.C.*

The following officers are awarded the "Clasp" to the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (Military):

(The date of qualification is shown in brackets.)

ROYAL ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

Capt. (E.M.A.E.) (now Maj. (E.M.A.E.)) G. H. HAMMOND (464224) (1st Sep. 1967.)

ROYAL ARMY PAY CORPS

Capt. (Asst. Pmr.) F. RICE (468395) (29th Jan. 1967).

AIR FORCE DEPARTMENT

Whitehall, London S.W.1.

23rd January 1968.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallant and distinguished service in South Arabia.

Distinguished Flying Cross

Flight Lieutenant David Patrick MALIN (607723), Royal Air Force.

Flight Lieutenant Malin was the Senior Flight Commander of one of the two fighter ground-attack squadrons at Khormaksar, from July 1965 to November 1967. For the last two years, these two squadrons, and the fighter reconnaissance flight at Khormaksar were engaged continuously on operational flying. During this period, tasks involved preplanned strikes against arms caches and dissident bases in the hinterland of South Arabia, close support for British and South Arabian troops under fire, numerous escorts, and air defence patrols along the border with the Yemen. The results achieved were outstanding. In every case when ground forces were pinned down by hostile fire and called for Royal Air Force support, the attacking Hunters inflicted very heavy casualties—up to 75 per cent. of the forces involved. Preplanned strikes on pinpoint targets were carried out with the highest degree of skill and accuracy, on targets which were often no more than a single house, a narrow cleft in a wadi, or the mouth of a cave. The overall effect was virtually to eliminate ambushes and attacks on friendly forces during daylight and thus materially to reduce the military casualties that would have been suffered. These sorties were carried out in the face of active opposition from the ground and during the period, nine Hunter aircraft were hit by small arms fire, one being destroyed. He displayed outstanding qualities in the air, especially on operational sorties, when he frequently led strikes against a variety of hostile targets, coming under small arms fire but always pressing home his attack. On the ground, his leadership was of an equally high standard and was instrumental in passing on his accumulated knowledge to the younger and less experienced pilots in his flight. During a changeover of Squadron Commanders Flight Lieutenant Malin was a tower of strength and largely responsible for maintaining the operational efficiency of the Squadron at a high standard during a difficult period. The achievements of Strike Wing were of the highest order and earned the admiration of both the British and South Arabian Armies. Flight Lieutenant Malin was an outstanding leader and a skilled and deliberate pilot.

Air Force Cross

Squadron Leader Stanley HITCHEN (3519412), Royal Air Force.

Squadron Leader Hitchen commanded No. 84 Beverley Squadron at Khormaksar, from October 1966 to November 1967. During his tour he was

personally involved in virtually every operational Beverley task of any magnitude as well as giving the lead in flying a multitude of mundane short range transport support and supply sorties to every up-country strip in South Arabia, which were the stock in trade of his Squadron. He consistently showed most creditable initiative and high standards of leadership, both in the air and on the ground; this resulted in his Squadron giving better air support and higher aircraft achievements than ever before. Through his enthusiasm, drive and inspiring leadership in the air, he lifted the morale of his Squadron to the highest levels and earned it the reputation of being a highly effective operational unit. Typical of his work was when, as a Detachment Commander he organised and arranged a famine relief operation which was entirely successful; through his determination and enthusiasm the task was completed ahead of schedule and a greater load was lifted. He was also Detachment Commander on the highly successful air evacuation of the up-country strip of Mukairas, when the final Royal Air Force forces and supplies had to be removed at short notice under the threat of dissident and enemy fire. At Riyan, he was again responsible for a thoroughly successful air evacuation of the Station, made under difficult political limitations and considerable local tension. In all respects he showed verve, judgement and great flying skill in all the flights and operations which he personally undertook or was responsible for; many of these, when landing or departing from South Arabian up-country strips, involved him being under sporadic fire or the constant threat of it. His outstanding leadership, high courage and spirit in the air notably contributed to the success of the many operational tasks and missions flown for Middle East Command.

Mentions in Despatches

Air Vice-Marshal Andrew Henry HUMPHREY, C.B., O.B.E., D.F.C., A.F.C., Royal Air Force.

Air Commodore Wilfred Jasper BURNETT, D.S.O., D.F.C., A.F.C., Royal Air Force.

Group Captain Basil William PARSONS, C.B.E., D.F.C., A.F.C., Royal Air Force.

Group Captain Kenneth RITCHLEY, C.B.E., A.F.C., Royal Air Force.

Group Captain David Wood, M.V.O., A.F.C., Royal Air Force.

Acting Group Captain John George IRETON, Royal Air Force.

Wing Commander George Charles Rowland ACKRILL, M.B.E. (44701), Royal Air Force.

Wing Commander Mark Frederick HOBDEN, O.B.E. (118331), Royal Air Force Regiment.

Wing Commander George Victor Richard JONES, O.B.E. (49455), Royal Air Force.

Wing Commander Ronald William MATHERS, D.F.C. (55201), Royal Air Force.

Wing Commander Graham Brian Henry NORRIS (3034795), Royal Air Force.

Wing Commander James Herbert Christopher PLUMMER, M.B.E. (157863), Royal Air Force.

Wing Commander Robert RAMIREZ, A.F.C. (1818026), Royal Air Force.

Wing Commander Ivor SCOTT, B.E.M. (57677), Royal Air Force.

Wing Commander Cedric Andrew Ernest SIMONS (3039411), Royal Air Force.

Wing Commander James Donald SPOTTISWOOD (3511970), Royal Air Force.

Wing Commander Allan George WHITE, B.E.M. (52884), Royal Air Force.

Squadron Leader William Sanders BROKENSHIRE, M.B.E. (56866), Royal Air Force.

Squadron Leader Kenneth William HOLMES, M.B.E. (166603), Royal Air Force.

Squadron Leader James MARSHALL (505544), Royal Air Force.

Squadron Leader Derek MORTON (626644), Royal Air Force.

Squadron Leader Frank Richard SOUTHWELL (1601394), Royal Air Force.

Squadron Leader George Alan WHITE (2620068), Royal Air Force.

Squadron Officer Alison Margaret MACKINTOSH (8735), Women's Royal Air Force.

Acting Squadron Leader Edward George CLARK (164828), Royal Air Force.

Acting Squadron Leader Norman Allan FOX (607606), Royal Air Force.

Flight Lieutenant Harold Edmonde BENNETT (1076526), Royal Air Force.