

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
9th March, 1945.*

The KING has been graciously pleased, on the advice of His Majesty's Australian Ministers, to approve the award of the British Empire Medal (Military Division) in recognition of brave conduct to the undermentioned:—

- Aus.25737 Sergeant Harold Arthur Adolph ZANDER, R.A.A.F.  
Aus.43597 Acting Sergeant George Edward HAMPTON, R.A.A.F.  
Aus.75059 Corporal Ernest BRACKIN, R.A.A.F.  
Aus.50354 Corporal John Joseph DRAKE, R.A.A.F.  
Aus.83277 Leading Aircraftman Thomas Edward William TURTON, R.A.A.F.

*Air Ministry, 9th March, 1945.*

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

*Distinguished Service Order.*

Acting Wing Commander James Edward DENNANT, D.F.C. (40465), R.A.F.O., 109 Sqn.

This officer's operational record is outstanding. He has completed more than a hundred missions, many of which have been against heavily defended targets in Germany. Throughout, he has set an example of a very high order. Undeterred by the heaviest of anti-aircraft fire or fighter interference, Wing Commander Dennant has always pressed home his attacks with the greatest resolution. In December, 1944, he piloted an aircraft in an attack on Dusseldorf. At the commencement of the bombing run his aircraft came under fire from the anti-aircraft batteries and was hit. Shortly afterwards it was illuminated in a cone of searchlights. Nevertheless, Wing Commander Dennant pressed home his attack. His bombing run was perfect. This officer has shown outstanding skill, great bravery and unswerving devotion to duty. In addition to his work in the air, Wing Commander Dennant has displayed a high standard of organising ability and great drive and his services have been of immense value.

Acting Squadron Leader Peter Frederick CLAYTON, D.F.C. (122931), R.A.F.V.R., 156 Sqn.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties, involving attacks on a wide range of well defended targets. He has displayed exceptional skill and throughout his devotion to duty has been unflinching. One night in January, 1945, Squadron Leader Clayton took part in an attack on Magdeburg. In spite of considerable fire from the ground defences, Squadron Leader Clayton pressed home his attack with great skill. His determination to obtain the best results on this occasion was typical of that which he has shown throughout his tour of operational duty. His splendid example has earned him the respect of the whole squadron.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Wing Commander Maurice Edward PICKFORD, D.F.C. (28116), R.A.F., 149 Sqn.

In November, 1944, this officer was pilot and captain in an aircraft detailed to attack Homburg. When nearing the target the aircraft was badly hit. Half the starboard elevator was smashed. The nose rose sharply and the aircraft started to climb steeply. Nevertheless, Wing Commander Pickford regained control. Despite extreme difficulty in maintaining level flight, this resolute pilot completed a good bombing run and afterwards flew the damaged aircraft to base where he effected a safe landing. His superb skill was undoubtedly largely responsible for the safe return of the aircraft.

Flight Lieutenant Richard Joseph AUDET, D.F.C., (Can/J.20136), R.C.A.F., 411 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer is an outstanding fighter. Since his first engagement, towards the end of December, 1944, he has completed numerous sorties during which he has destroyed a further 6 enemy aircraft, bring his total victories to 11; Flight Lieutenant Audet has also most effectively attacked numerous locomotives and mechanical vehicles. His skill and daring have won the greatest praise.

Flight Lieutenant Douglas Campbell BUNCH, D.F.C. (115674), R.A.F.V.R., 157 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Bunch has completed a very large number of sorties and continues to render most valuable service. He is a highly skilled member of aircraft crew and has assisted in the destruction of 7 enemy aircraft. He has at all times displayed a high standard of determination and devotion to duty.

Flight Lieutenant John Owen MATHEWS, D.F.C. (67630), R.A.F.V.R., 157 Sqn.

Warrant Officer Alan PENROSE, D.F.C. (1113654), R.A.F.V.R., 157 Sqn.

As pilot and observer respectively this officer and warrant officer have participated in very many sorties, and continue to display great enthusiasm for air operations. They are highly skilled members of aircraft crew and have shown the greatest keenness to engage the enemy. They have destroyed 7 enemy aircraft, two of them in one sortie in December, 1944.

Acting Flight Lieutenant William Makepeace STRATHERN, D.F.C. (N.Z.42476), R.N.Z.A.F., 138 Sqn.

This officer was the captain of an aircraft detailed for an operational sortie one night in December, 1944. For his crew, this was their first sortie. During the operation the aircraft was attacked by a fighter, from which a burst of machine gun fire caused much damage. The rear gunner was badly wounded and his gun turret was rendered unserviceable. The port elevator was shot away and the fuselage was hit by bullets in many places. Flight Lieutenant Strathern, from his position in the second pilot's seat, immediately took control. By skilful manoeuvring, he succeeded in finally evading the attacker. The starboard inner engine was now out of action and the aircraft had become exceedingly difficult to control. Nevertheless, by a superb display of airmanship, Flight Lieutenant Strathern flew the badly damaged aircraft back to base. In most harassing circumstances this officer displayed outstanding coolness, great courage and model captaincy.

Flying Officer James Samuel Victor MCALLISTER, D.F.C., D.F.M. (148826), R.A.F.V.R., 85 Sqn.

Flying Officer Alan Joseph OWEN, D.F.C., D.F.M. (155788), R.A.F.V.R., 85 Sqn.

These officers have displayed the highest standard of courage and resolution in air operations. They have completed a large number of sorties during which they have destroyed 15 enemy aircraft, successes which well illustrate their exceptional skill. Fearless and devoted members of aircraft crew, these officers have set an example of a high order.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Jeremy Napier HOWARD-WILLIAMS (108609), R.A.F.V.R.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties and throughout has set a fine example of keenness and devotion to duty. He has shot down at least 2 enemy aircraft, whilst in attacks on targets on the ground he has most effectively attacked numerous locomotives and mechanical vehicles. His resolute work has won great praise.

Flight Lieutenant Carl Heebner HENDERSON (Can/J.9123), R.C.A.F., 608 Sqn.

This officer has completed very many sorties against targets in Germany and has never failed to press home his attacks. In December, 1944, he piloted an aircraft in an attack against Duisburg. On the run in to the target the starboard engine began to vibrate badly. Nevertheless, Flight Lieutenant Henderson maintained his position in the formation until the target was bombed. Not until then did he break away to feather the propeller of the defective engine. Afterwards, his aircraft was subjected to much concentrated anti-aircraft fire but Flight Lieutenant Henderson flew clear and on to an airfield in Allied territory. Whilst making his approach to land, he saw another aircraft in a condition which made it imperative that it be landed at once. Although at a low altitude, and with one engine out of action, Flight Lieutenant Henderson circled the airfield until the other aircraft was safely down. He then came in himself and effected a safe landing. This officer has invariably displayed a high standard of courage and resolution.