

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards:—

Distinguished Flying Cross

Flight Lieutenant Charles Henry Lattimer (NZ 403964), Royal New Zealand Air Force, of England.

Air Force Cross

Flying Officer Digby Disire Burdett (NZ 42541), Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Otaki.

Flying Officer Gordon David Hudson (NZ 413419), Royal New Zealand Air Force, of New Plymouth.

F. JONES, Minister of Defence.

Honours and Awards approved by His Majesty the King

Office of the Minister of Defence,
Wellington, 18th September, 1944.

HIS Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve the following immediate award, in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in air operations against the enemy:—

Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (Flying)

NZ 421549 Flight Sergeant David John Moriarty, Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Wanganui.

One morning in July, 1944, this airman was captain of an aircraft detailed to attack an objective in Northern France. Whilst over the target area the aircraft was hit by an anti-aircraft shell, which exploded in the cockpit. Flight Sergeant Moriarty was severely injured about the face, being completely blinded in one eye, which was badly lacerated by flying glass or shell fragments. He also sustained nasty scalp wounds. After receiving first aid, he insisted on remaining at the controls. In spite of his distress he succeeded in flying the aircraft home. He displayed courage, fortitude, and determination of a high order.

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards, in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in air operations against the enemy:—

Second Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross

Flight Lieutenant Roy Oldfield Calvert, D.F.C. (NZ 404890), Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Cambridge.

Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross

Acting Squadron Leader Derek Harold Hammond, D.F.C. (NZ 401493), Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Christchurch.

Distinguished Flying Cross

Flight Lieutenant William Edwin Anderson (NZ 416073), Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Christchurch.

Flight Lieutenant Charles Victor Bargh (NZ 40960), Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Pahiataua.

Flight Lieutenant Peter Francis Locker Hall (NZ 413841), Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Gisborne.

Flight Lieutenant Jack Desmond Harris (NZ 391353), Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Christchurch.

Acting Flight Lieutenant William Bagley Smaill (NZ 42504), Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Auckland.

Flying Officer Alan Alfred Dray (NZ 414602), Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Auckland.

Flying Officer Sidney Frederick Parlato (NZ 415778), Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Palmerston North.

Pilot Officer Raymond Benjamin Ede (NZ 425973), Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Ashburton.

Pilot Officer Kenneth Evan Forsyth (NZ 4310173), Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Taumarunui.

Pilot Officer William Allen Hendry (NZ 413415), Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Dunedin.

Pilot Officer Douglas William Kermode (NZ 425018), Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Ashburton.

Pilot Officer Alfred Edgar Nicklin (NZ 422309), Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Auckland.

Pilot Officer Charles Mita Hikairo Pinker (NZ 416159), Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Matata.

Pilot Officer Iwikau Te Mataura Te Aika (NZ 425860), Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Canterbury.

Pilot Officer Leslie Bryant Winsloe (NZ 404983), Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Invercargill.

NZ 404524 Warrant Officer Rex Taber Andrews, Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Marlborough.

F. JONES, Minister of Defence.

Operational Awards approved by His Majesty the King

Office of the Minister of Defence,
Wellington, 3rd October, 1944.

HIS Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards, in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in air operations against the enemy:—

Distinguished Flying Cross

18th September, 1944

Acting Wing Commander Stanley Gilbert Quill (NZ 1059), Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Invercargill.

Flying Officer Rex Alexander Weber (NZ 404979), Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Picton.

25th September, 1944

Acting Flying Officer Leslie Fulker (NZ 412421), Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Australia.

F. JONES, Minister of Defence.

Operational Award approved by His Majesty the King

Office of the Minister of Defence,
Wellington, 10th August, 1944.

HIS Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve the following immediate award, in recognition of exceptional determination and devotion to duty during operations against the enemy in the South Pacific area:—

Military Medal

NZ 426008 Flight Sergeant Murray Scofield Aitchison, Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Dunedin.

Blown out of his aircraft when it suffered three hits from heavy anti-aircraft fire while in an aiming dive upon a strongly defended enemy airfield, this pilot, after parachuting to the ground, escaped from Japanese-held territory as a result of his own initiative and determination, and, by his brave conduct in the face of grave difficulties, set a fine example. Flight Sergeant Aitchison landed within one mile of a Japanese aerodrome, but by travelling carefully, husbanding his strength, making the maximum use of cover and putting to best advantage the few facilities at his disposal, he succeeded after two days and one night in reaching a river, down which he floated in his rubber dinghy. This journey, made by night down a swift-flowing river, was hazardous in the extreme, as the pilot was tipped from his frail craft on several occasions, and throughout faced the imminent danger of detection by enemy patrols. He reached the sea and then paddled, off and on, for three nights and two days, against adverse currents, and was finally picked up by an Allied gunboat. Flight Sergeant Aitchison's escape from enemy territory followed a tour of duty marked by exceptional determination and devotion to duty.

F. JONES, Minister of Defence.

Operational Honours and Awards approved by His Majesty the King

Office of the Minister of Defence,
Wellington, 10th August, 1944.

HIS Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve the following immediate appointment and awards, in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in air operations against the enemy:—

To be a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order

Flying Officer Charles Graham Parker (NZ 415638), Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Wellington.

With his left arm shattered by enemy machine-gun fire from the ground, and weak through pain and loss of blood, this captain of a bomber aircraft completed a mission against the Japanese on Bougainville Island, used his bombs to advantage, and brought his aircraft and crew safely back to base. Wounded when on patrol seeking targets of opportunity, Flying Officer Parker, the only pilot aboard, managed to retain control. A tourniquet was applied to his arm by his navigator, and the captain, in spite of his injuries then flew on, and dropped his bombs, which caused extensive damage. Although on being hit the captain had partially collapsed, he recovered sufficiently to fly back to base, and made a safe landing in spite of having only one hand available to operate his controls. Flying Officer Parker collapsed after landing, and had to be assisted from the aircraft. This officer, by his courage, disregard of his own injuries and suffering, and exceptional devotion to duty, set an excellent example.

Distinguished Flying Cross

Flight Lieutenant Bruce St. John Campbell Thomson (NZ 415638), Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Auckland.

Flying Officer Clive Samuel Whitehouse Yockney (NZ 413548), Royal New Zealand Air Force, of Auckland.

Flight Lieutenant Thomson was the captain and Flying Officer Yockney the navigator of a bomber on patrol over enemy-held territory in the South-western Pacific, when the aircraft suffered a direct hit by a large calibre anti-aircraft shell. Extensive damage was caused to the tail of the aircraft, the rudder control and trimming cables being severed, and the captain, realizing that serious damage had resulted, ordered the crew to prepare for a landing in the sea. The navigator, having inspected the damage as best he could, reported, however, that he considered the aircraft might reach base, and after giving the pilot a course, he took up his station in the astro-hatch where he could watch the damaged control surfaces and advise the captain of the best