

DECORATIONS AWARDED TO ALBERTIAN WORLD WAR TWO SERVICE MEN

These military decorations are recorded in Nelson Body's list of 2000 names in John Hooper Harvey's *Mount Albert Grammar School 1922-1945 Silver Jubilee Souvenir*. Those listed have received awards for bravery or gallantry over and above the campaign and service medals. Following the list there is an 'Order of Wear' and then some details of each of the awards.

The List:

Flight Lieutenant ET Aiken MID
Flight Lieutenant DP Bain DFC
Captain TM Batesby MID
Captain RB Beatie MID
Lieutenant Commander AA Bell VD
Flying Officer GA Bice MID
Flying Officer RJ Bollard DFC
Sergeant ER Brash MID
Wing Commander AAW Breckon DFC
Flight Lieutenant IO Breckon DFC and Bar, MID x3
Warrant Officer Class 1 J Bremner MM
Mr RH Busfield MBE
Major VC Butler MID
Major GS Carter DSO
Major SF Catchpole MC, MID
Warrant Officer Class 1 TW Clews MID
Flight Sergeant DS Conu MID
Flight Lieutenant PR Coney MID
Flying Officer KA Dodman DFC
Lance Sergeant F Eadie MID
Flight Lieutenant HD Ellerington DFC, CVSA
Flight Lieutenant AR Evans DFC
Sergeant F Fenton DCM
Wing Commander GH Fisher MID, USAM
Warrant Officer Class 2 EWGH Forsythe MBE (Military)
Captain KG Fuller MID
Flight Lieutenant TA Gallagher MID
Captain CG Gentil MID
Squadron Leader AG George DFC, MID
Flight Lieutenant GD Goodwin DFC
Wing Commander RJC Grant DFC and Bar, DFM
Captain WG Gray MID x2
Lieutenant MK Hanan MID
Captain FJ Haslett MID
Squadron Leader WCK Hinder MID
Captain JC Henley DCM, MZSM, EM
Squadron Leader GC Hitchcock DFC
Flying Officer AA Hodder AFM
Lieutenant HJ Hodge MC
Flight Lieutenant RF Hoyle DFC
Flying Officer HC Hurt DFC
Flying Officer ARC Jackson MID
Sergeant GL Jackson BEM

Captain JD Jepson MID
Petty Officer HG Josey BEM
Sergeant H Kaad MID
Captain DVC Kelsall MID 2x
Captain AL King MID, US Bronze Star
Warrant Officer Class 1 HS King BEM
Lieutenant Commander AM Kirkpatrick MID
Major EC Laurie MC, MID
Major FJ Lea MC, MID, US Silver Star
Lieutenant JB Lockie MID
Lieutenant AS Long MID
Flight Lieutenant JR McClymont CVSA
Major AJ McCowan OBE (Military)
Lieutenant Colonel HM McElroy DSO and Bar, ED, MID
Squadron Leader RW McSkimming MBE (Military)
Lieutenant TK Markwick MID
Bombardier FS Marshall MID
Staff Sergeant GC Marshall BEM
Staff Sergeant FD Martin MID
Lieutenant RT Masefield MC
Lieutenant SJ Martin MID
Warrant Officer Class 2 TJ Maxwell
Lieutenant H Meitzer MID
Corporal AHE Midgley MID
Squadron Leader MJ Miller DFC
Lieutenant PG Millener DSC
Flight Lieutenant JE Mortimer DFC
Major GB Nelson DSO
Group Captain CWK Nicholls DSO, OBE (Military)
Leading Aircraftman DE Ohms MID x2
Captain RM Page MC
Staff Sergeant FW Palmer MID
Squadron Leader JK Porteous DFC
Major GA Possin MID
Sergeant LPA Potter MID
Flying Officer AT Power DFC
Flight Lieutenant JB Price DFM
Lieutenant Colonel GG Pryor OBE (Military), MID
Flight Lieutenant WS Rae DFC
Flying Officer RC Rainer MID
Major AT Rawle MID
Flight Lieutenant GF Reid DFC
Warrant Officer Class 1 JL Richards MM
Driver CC Robinson MM, MID
Flight Lieutenant KB Rogers DFC, AFC
Flying Officer JD Rudling DFM
Squadron Leader WJ Runciman AFC, DFM, MID
Warrant Officer Class 1 LB Russell MID
Sergeant Observer LP Ryan MID
Flying Officer DR Sadgrove DFC
Captain WE von Schramm ED MID

Flying Officer NC Sharp DFC
Major RW Sharp ED
Flight Lieutenant J Shaw DFC
Flight Lieutenant WD Smellie DFC
Squadron Leader AH Smith DFC and Bar MID
Flight Lieutenant PGF Smith DFM
Sergeant TG Steen MM, MID
Squadron Leader CR Stephenson DFC
Major A Stuart MID
Lieutenant JW Tattersfield MID
Flight Lieutenant ER Taylor DFC
Flight Lieutenant CP Thode MID x2
Flight Lieutenant MC Thorburn MID
Captain WM Tongue ED
Flight Lieutenant AF Tucker DFC, MID
Flight Lieutenant GH Turner DFC
Flying Officer ADJ Uffindell DFC
Warrant Officer Class 1 JS Underdown BEM
Major HG Vivian MID
Pilot Officer EJ Walker DFC
Private DL Watkins MID
Wing Commander Watts MID x2
Wing Commander SD Watts DSO, DFC, MID
Flying Officer GS Witwell DFM
Captain NE Wickham MID
Petty Officer TH Wickham MID
Sergeant HN Willis MID
Major JFB Wilson MID
Flying Officer DE Wood MBE (Military)
Lieutenant SG Woodroffe DSC

Following are some details of each of the awards mentioned in the list above. The first in rank is the Distinguished Service Order, DSO. The various crosses are next, in order they are: The Distinguished Service Cross DSC, the Military Cross MC, The Distinguished Flying Cross DFC, and the Air Force Cross AFC.

Round medals, Stars and other awards such as Mentioned in Despatches (MID) and the military divisions of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, OBE and MBE have a rank order also. Such ranking comes under the general heading 'Order of Wear'.

The Distinguished Service Order

The Distinguished Service Order, DSO, is a military decoration for British Officers and officers of other commonwealth countries. It's for Officers of the order of Major or over. It is for a high order of gallantry, typically in active combat, just short of the George Cross and the Victoria Cross. Recipients are known as Companions of the Distinguished Service Order. The images below are of the DSO of Wing Commander Steve Watts. They were lent to us to photograph.



The Order is a cross with curved ends, 41mm wide, enameled white, edged with gilt. In the centre of the obverse, within a green enameled laurel leaf is the Imperial Crown in gold upon a red enameled background. The reverse has the Royal Cypher in gold on a similar wreath and background.

A ring at the top is attached to a ring at the bottom of a gilt suspension bar ornamental with laurel. At the top is a similar bar. The red ribbon is 28.6mm wide with royal blue edges.

The DSO is also an Order of Chivalry and ranks just below The Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George and above The Royal Victorian Order.

The Distinguished Service Cross

The Distinguished Service Cross, DSC, is a military decoration for Naval Officers of the rank of Commander and Lieutenant Commander. During World War 2 it was extended to the equivalent RAF officers serving with the Fleet and Army Officers aboard defensively equipped merchant ships and to officers of the Merchant and Fishing Fleets targeted by the enemy. It has been awarded in Commonwealth countries.

It is a plain silver cross with rounded ends with width 43mm. The obverse has a circular centre containing the Royal Cypher surrounded by the Imperial State Crown. The reverse is plain except for the hallmark.



The ribbon is attached by a hall-marked silver ring. The ribbon has three equal stripes of royal blue, white and royal blue.

The Military Cross

The Military Cross, MC, is a military decoration for British Officers and for officers of other Commonwealth countries. It is issued to Commissioned officers of Captain and below and for both classes of Warrant Officers. It is for gallantry on land during active operations against the enemy.



The silver cross has straight arms ending in broad finials 46mm high and 44mm wide. The obverse is decorated with Imperial Crowns and the royal Cypher in the centre. While this example is of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, the cross would have been awarded to World War 2 service men during the reign of her father King George VI. The reverse is plain. The cross has a hole above it attached to a plain suspended bar. The ribbon has equal vertical stripes of white, purple and white.

The Distinguished Flying Cross

The Distinguished Flying Cross, DFC, is a military decoration awarded to officers of the RAF and to officers of other Commonwealth Air Forces for an act of valour, courage, or devotion to duty whilst flying in active operations against the enemy.

The cross is a cross flora (decorated flowery ends). It is gilded and 50mm wide. The horizontal and bottom bars end in curled bumps and the upper bar ends in a rose and a hole to support a ring, attached to a supporter, with laurel leaves.



There is an aeroplane propeller superimposed on the vertical bars and wings on the horizontal bars. In the centre is a laurel wreath around the RAF monogram surrounded by the Imperial State Crown. The reverse shows the Royal Cypher in the centre and year of issue in the lower arm. The medal is named. The ribbon is 35mm wide with white and purple broad diagonal stripes, leaning 45 degrees to the left. The images are of the DFC awarded to Wing Commander Steve Watt and lent to the school to be photographed.

The Air Force Cross

The Air Force Cross, AFC, is a military decoration awarded to officers of the UK Armed Forces and, formerly also to officers of other Commonwealth countries. It is awarded for an act of exemplary gallantry while flying though not on active operations against the enemy.



The award is a silver cross 60mm in height and 54mm wide representing aeroplane propeller blades with wings between the arms. In the centre is Hermes riding the wings of a hawk and holding a laurel wreath. The reverse has the Royal Cypher. There is a ring at the top attached to another ring which is attached to the suspended bar decorated with laurel. The ribbon is 32mm wide and has alternate red and white stripes at a 45-degree angle.

The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire has various levels, both civil and military. The military levels awarded to Albertians in wartime are Officer, OBE, and Member, MBE. An MBE was also awarded to Headmaster Murray Nairn for his time in the RNZAF. The Officer award is gilded and the Member award is silver. Higher grades are more elaborate.



This is a low-resolution image, it was photographed from a computer screen. This military MBE is a cross with fleurs-de-lis ends. In the centre is the Monarch's image and the motto of the Order, FOR GOD AND THE EMPIRE. The BEM, related to the order, has the same motto. Above the cross is the Imperial State Crown, attached to a ring which suspends the ribbon. The military version of the ribbon is red with white edging (like the civil version). There is an additional white strip in the centre.

The Military Medal

The Military Medal, MM, was a military decoration awarded by personnel of the British Army and Armies of other Commonwealth countries, below Commissioned rank for bravery in battle on land. It was introduced in 1916 and back dated to 1914. It was discontinued in 1993.

It is a circular medal of 36mm diameter. The obverse of the image of King George VI, facing left, and wearing the Imperial State Crown and bearing the device: GEORGIVS VI DG BR OMNI REX ET INDIAE IMP ie. GEORGE VI BY THE GRACE OF GOD KING OF ALL THE BRITONS AND EMPEROR OF INDIA.



The reverse has the inscriptions FOR BRAVERY IN THE FIELD in four lines surrounded by a laurel wreath surrounded by the Royal Cypher and the Imperial State Crown.

The suspender is of an ornate scroll type. The ribbon is 1 ¼ inch/32cm. The outer blue bands represent half the width of the ribbon and other half is equal bands of white, red, white, red, white. The military medal comes above the Distinguished Flying Medal and below the Distinguished Service Medal.

The Distinguished Flying Medal

The Distinguished Flying Medal, DFM, was a military decoration awarded to personnel of the RAF and other Commonwealth Air Forces, below Commissioned rank for exceptional valour, courage or devotion to duty while flying in active operations against the enemy. It was instated in 1918 and discontinued in 1993.



It is an oval medal 35mm wide and 41mm high. The World War 2 version has the uncrowned head of King George VI with the common legend GEORGIVS VI:D:G:BR:OMNI:REX F:D:IND:IMP: That is GEORGE VI, BY THE GRACE OF GOD, KING OF ALL THE BRITONS, DEFENDER OF THE FAITH, EMPEROR OF INDIA.

The reverse shows Athena Nike (Nike means 'victory' in Greek). The Goddess is seated on an aeroplane with a hawk rising from her right arm, with the words FOR COURAGE and the date 1918. The edge is a narrow laurel wreath. The suspenders are wings connected to a bar that bears the ribbon which is 1 ¼ in/32cm wide. The ribbon is alternate white and violet stripes leaning 45 degrees to the left. It ranks below the Military Medal and above the Air Force Medal in the Order of Wear.

The British Empire Medal

The British Empire Medal, BEM, has civil and military divisions. The military one recognizes acts of gallantry. It is a circular silver medal 36mm in diameter, the obverse depicts a seated effigy of Britannia holding a trident and circumscribed by the legend FOR GOD AND THE EMPIRE with for MERITORIOUS SERVICE at the base.



The reverse displays the Royal Cypher. (This is that of Queen Elizabeth II, in wartime it would have been the Royal Cypher of her father King George VI). The Imperial State Crown is in the centre and around the four lions passant and the words INSTITUTED BY KING GEORGE V.

The suspended is a claw composed of a series of stylized oak leaves attached to a straight suspender bar. The ribbon is 32cm wide and is red edged in white. The military version has a central white stripe.

The medal is related to the most Excellent Order of the British Empire and has the same motto.

The Volunteer Officers' Decoration

The Volunteer Officer Decoration, VD, was awarded for long and meritorious service for officers of the United Kingdom, where it was superseded by the Territorial Decoration in 1908. It was continued to be awarded in New Zealand until 1930. Headmaster William Caradus had one. It is listed here because one of the Albertians on the list had one.



The Decoration is an oval skeletal design, 43mm x36mm. The obverse is an oak leaf wreath in silver tied with gold, with the royal Cypher below the Imperial State Crown, both in gold in the centre. The reverse is plain with the hallmark impressed at the bottom. The suspender is a ring tied the fixed ring on the medal. The ribbon is solid dark green and is suspended from a silver bar brooch decorated with an oak leaf pattern.

The Efficiency Medal

The Efficiency Medal, EF, is a military decoration awarded to part-time warrant officers and other ranks for 12 years efficient service on the active list of the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries. The medal is oval 39mm x 32mm.



The obverse is a portrait of King George VI wearing the Imperial State Crown and the usual short form Latin text. The reverse has the words FOR EFFICIENT SERVICE. The illustrated example has a MILITIA suspender bar. The fixed suspender bar is a pair of laurel leaves affixed to the medal by a single-toe claw and horizontal pin. The green ribbon with gold edging is 32mm wide.

The medal is still awarded in New Zealand with a NEW ZEALAND suspender bar.

A Mention in Dispatches

A Mention in Dispatches, MID, is to a member of the armed forces in British and Commonwealth services where name appears in an official report written by a superior officer and sent to the high command in which his or her gallant or meritorious action in the face of the enemy is described. There is no medal but the recipient is awarded a certificate in the name of the King and in New Zealand there is an additional certificate in the name of the Governor General. Also, an oak leaf device is worn on the ribbon of the appropriate medal. The order of wear of the MID depends on the medal.

Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air

The Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air, CVSA, are merits presented to both British and Commonwealth Service personnel and civilians. There is a citation. Military awards are also an oak leaf worn on a companion medal as for Mentioned in Dispatcher.

Foreign Medals

The wearing of foreign medals on the uniform of serving British or Commonwealth service personnel requires written permission from the high command.

In the Order of Wear of Foreign Medals for retired personnel in civilian dress, come after all British or Commonwealth awards.

According to the List, Wing Commander GH Fisher received a USAM. The United States Airman's Medal was established in 1960, retroactive to 1956, still too late for World War 2. There is no US military decoration that fits the USAM at the time of the List. The post-nominal USAF after Wing Commander Fisher's name is a mystery.

The Silver Star Medal

The Silver Star Medal, SSM, is the United States Armed Forces third highest decoration for valour in combat. While it is awarded primarily to US personnel, it may also be for forces of friendly nations at war against an enemy of the United States.



It is awarded for singular acts of valour or heroism over a brief period of several days. It is a 5-pointed star 35mm in circumscribing diameter with a laurel wreath encircling rays from the centre and < 5mm diameter silver star superimposed on the centre. The Star has a central metal loop attached to the ribbon. The reverse has the inscription FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION. The ribbon is described as being 35mm wide and is described as having a centre > 5.5mm strip of old glory red, proceeding outward in pairs > 5.5mm white > 5.5mm ultramarine, > 1mm white and < 2.5 ultramarine.

The Bronze Star Medal

The Bronze Star Medal, BSM, is for a uniform department of US military personnel or to foreign nationals who are engaged in ground combat with an enemy of the United States. The medal is a bronze star 38mm in circumscribing diameter. In the centre is a 5mm superimposed bronze star. The rays of both stars coincide. The reverse bears the inscription FOR HEROIC OR MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT.



The Star hangs from its ribbon by a rectangular metal loop with rounded corners. The ribbon is 35mm wide and has a central > 3mm ultramarine strip and proceeding outward in pairs a > 1mm white strip, 14mm scarlet and > 1mm white.

Brian Murphy