

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HONOURS AND AWARDS (IMMEDIATE)

Christian Names : ALFRED GEORGE Surname : EDGAR
Rank : PILOT OFFICER Official No : 172180
Command or Group : No. 5 Group Unit : No. 49 Squadron

Total Hours flown on operations : 47.50 hours
Total Sorties : 9 Sorties
Recognition for which recommended : D.F.C. (Immediate)

Appointment held : An officer of the R.A.F. (G.D. Branch)
employed as a Pilot with No. 49 Squadron

Particulars of meritorious service for which recommendation is made :

This officer has shown himself to be an outstanding captain of a night bomber, and to have endurance, determination and courage of the highest order.

On the night of 11th May, 1944, he was detailed to attack BOURG LEOPOLD, a target in Belgium.

Due to circumstances beyond his control in the target area, he was unable to drop his bombs accurately, and rather than scatter them wildly and cause unnecessary damage to the friendly civilian population he decided to start the return journey with all his bombs on board.

As the enemy coast was approached his aircraft was subjected to a terrific raking of ~~gun~~ gun and cannon fire by an enemy aircraft. The fuselage of the Lancaster was set on fire; aileron controls and trimming tab wires were severed.

The fire in the fuselage was extinguished and rather than abandon his aircraft over enemy territory P/O Edgar decided to set course for England.

The controls of the aircraft were so ^{damaged} ~~injured~~ that it was necessary for the Pilot and the Bomb Aimer to throw their full weight against the control column in order to keep the aircraft on an even keel.

In this manner the aircraft was flown for two hours until a British base was reached. The Pilot then executed a perfect landing under the most difficult circumstances, thus saving a valuable aircraft from further damage and a highly trained crew from injury.

For the outstanding airmanship displayed by P/O Edgar, for his courage and determination in the face of almost unsurmountable odds, I strongly recommend the immediate award of the D.F.C.

signed by M. Crocker
Wing Commander, Commanding
RAF Station, Fiskerton

Date 13th May 1944

REMARKS OF BASE COMMANDER

Recommended

signed by S L Pope
Air Commodore, Commanding
No. 52 Base, RAF

REMARKS OF AIR OFFICER COMMANDING

This officer has shown that he possesses courage and determination of a high order. The damage to the aircraft on the night of 11th May was such as would have caused a Pilot of less determination to abandon his aircraft over enemy territory.

I recommend an immediate award of the Distinguished Flying Cross.

signed by R A Cochrane
Air Vice-Marshal
Air Officer Commanding
No. 5 Group, R.A.F.

Date 20th May 1944

AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
(IMMEDIATE AWARD)

signed by R. Saundby
A/M
for Air Chief Marshal
Commanding-in-Chief
BOMBER COMMAND