

PEDEN, F/O David Murray (J20216) - Distinguished Flying Cross - Mention In Despatches

No 214 (Federated Malay States) Squadron.

Born 19 October 1923 in Winnipeg.

Formerly in Winnipeg Rifles; enlisted there 20 October 1941.

To No.3 Manning Depot, 5 November 1941.

To No.7 SFTS (guard), 5 December 1941.

To No.4 ITS, 28 February 1942; graduated and promoted LAC, 25 April 1942.

To No.5 EFTS; graduated 3 July 1942 and posted next day to No.10 SFTS; graduated and commissioned 23 October 1942.

To "Y" Depot, 6 November 1942.

To RAF overseas, 10 November 1942.

Promoted Flying Officer, 23 April 1943.

Promoted Flight Lieutenant, 15 December 1943.

DFC awarded, Award effective 1 December 1944 as per London Gazette dated

12 December 1944 and AFRO 337/45 dated 23 February 1945.

Citation "...in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations against the enemy. This pilot received Bomber Command commendations in July 1944 for excellent leadership and brilliant flying when attacked by enemy aircraft. He has now completed his operational tour, including a wide variety of targets in Germany. Throughout this period he has shown on all occasions outstanding leadership, courage and determination, and has proved himself a worthy captain, thus setting a fine example to all aircrew."

NOTE: G/C T.C. Dickens, Officer Commanding Base Oulton, wrote more on 18 September 1944. A very efficient captain of aircraft who, throughout his tour of operations, has inspired the greatest confidence. This officer has displayed high qualities of leadership; he has co-ordinated his crew excellently; his missions have been completed to schedule in a most efficient and capable manner

Public Records Office Air 2/8881 has recommendation dated 16 September 1944 when he had flown 31 sorties (147 hours 25 minutes), 24 July 1943 to 29 August 1944.

* denotes mission as "Special Duties",

Montargis (6.40) 22 September 1943

Hanover (5.25) 23 September 1943

Mannheim (6.55) 25 September 1943

GARDENING, Frisians (3.35) 2 October 1943

GARDENING, Kattegat (8.00) 3 October 1943

Kassell (5.50) 8 October 1943

Bremen (5.40) 9 November 1943

France (6.15)* 10 November 1943

France (6.50)* 15 November 1943

France (2.25)* 18 November 1943

France (5.25)* 30 November 1943

GARDENING, Le Havre (2.50) 10 December 1943

France (3.50)* 4 January 1944

Pas de Calais (3.30)* 24 April 1944

Karlsruhe (6.00)* 1 May 1944

Chambly (3.35)* 8 May 1944

Haine St.Pierre (2.55)* 19 May 1944

Le Mans (4.50)* 5 June 1944

Dieppe area (6.25)* 21 June 1944

Gelsenkirchen (3.00)* 14 July 1944

RCAF Press Release No. 369 dated 10 July 1945 from F/L W.A. Shields, PRO, read as follows "The Winnipeg man began operations on Stirlings as a main force bomber pilot. When invitations came to train for a special force whose principal task was to hoax German ground and night fighter defences, Peden volunteered. En route to Gelsenkirchen, an Me-410 which came up to take a pot shot at a Lancaster, turned to attack Peden's Flying Fortress. A gunner, Flight Sergeant Johnny Walker gave it a blast and claimed a "damaged" when it sheared off. When the next enemy fighter attacked, a Ju-88, Peden had no warning because his intercom had been shot away. The Fortress took an "awful beating". Enemy cannon shot off the starboard wheel, knocked out the starboard inner motor, setting it afire, holed the right wing, and wounded a wireless operator and a gunner. He couldn't feather the motor and the vibration intermittently to do his job and had to return to Britain alone, losing 15,000 feet on the way back. With his intercom gone, he landed by Very pistol signal, right on the heels of a badly-damaged Lancaster. As its crew scurried for safety, Peden ploughed into it. With his right wheel gone, he had little control of his aircraft as it hit the runway. The 18,000 pounder, similar to those which sank the pocket battleships Tirpitz and Lutzow, fortunately didn't go off

"Walk away from that landing?" grinned F/L Peden. "We ran away from it."

Paris (6.50)* 17 July 1944

Overflakee (2.00)* 19 July 1944

Le Havre (2.50)* 28 July 1944

Stuttgart (7.45)* 29 July 1944

Overflakee (2.00)* 7 August 1944

Patrol (4.20)* 13 August 1944

Overflakee (1.45)* 16 August 1944

Kiel (4.15)* 17 August 1944

Denmark area (3.15)* 25 August 1944

Heligoland (3.40)* 29 August 1944

Stettin (8.50)*

Repatriated 23 July 1945.

Invested with award at Buckingham Palace 13 July 1945.

Retired 12 September 1945.

Mention In Despatches Overseas (MID) awarded 1 January 1946 as per London Gazette of that date and AFRO 388/46 dated 12 April 1946.

Author of the book A Thousand Shall Fall.

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