

RAF COLLEGE CRANWELL

“Pre-WWII PRIZE WINNERS”



Description of Awards to Cadets 1920 to 1939

Version 1.0 17 November 2021 IBM Steward 6GE

This analysis relies heavily on records archived at the RAF College before 2000 and DVDs purchased by the author of Graduation Parades beyond 2005. It is quite likely, therefore, that not all prize winners have been included especially as not all were presented their prizes during the Graduation Parades. Any members of 180 IOT and beyond (including all IOTC graduates) are invited to send copies of their graduation programmes to ibms520@gmail.com and I shall endeavour to correct any errors or omissions.

College Journal Summer 1949

FLYING PRIZES

R. M. GROVES MEMORIAL PRIZE: THE DICKSON TROPHY: THE KINKEAD TROPHY

THE winner of the R. M. Groves Memorial Prize was selected after a series of tests covering every aspect of a service pilot's training. General handling, aerobatics, bombing, cine-gun air firing, and instrument flying were all tested, and in accordance with the post-war conception of an All Weather Air Force, the emphasis formerly placed on pure flying and aerobatics shifted to instrument flying. Consequently, the customary aerobatic display was not held, and the final test by the Chief Flying Instructor of Central Flying School took place with a cloud base of 3,000 feet and 1,800 yards visibility.

The flying order of merit was produced by a system of marking in which the overall progress of the cadet in each aspect of his flying, as well as the final tests, counted towards the maximum of 1,000 marks.

Competition was keen and the final results were close. The first three cadets in order of merit were Flight Cadet Under-Officer Pledger, Flight Cadet Lamb and Flight Cadet Corporal Slater. Accordingly, these three cadets were tested by Wing Commander Keen, A.F.C., the Chief Flying Instructor of Central Flying School, on 28th March. The Wing Commander expressed great satisfaction with the standard of flying displayed by all three contestants, particularly in view of the weather conditions. The final order was Flight Cadet Under-Officer Pledger, Flight Cadet Lamb and Flight Cadet Corporal Slater.

Under-Officer Pledger is to be congratulated on winning both the Groves Prize and the Dickson Trophy. The Dickson Trophy is awarded to the cadet obtaining the highest marks in applied instrument flying, bombing, gunnery, formation flying and navigation.

All three cadets have reached a high standard of flying, which succeeding entries will have to work hard to attain.

The Kinkead Trophy, awarded to the Squadron with the best aggregate position in the Flying Order of Merit, was won by B Squadron.

R. B. C.

THE COLLEGE PRIZES

At each Passing Out Ceremony in the Department of Officer and Flying Training, and at ceremonies in other Departments, prizes are awarded. What is not generally known is the history behind the awards. This article deals with 6 such awards; subsequent articles will describe others, forming a permanent record of yet another chapter of the College's past. We are indebted to Mr Hensby for his painstaking research and for his careful preservation of the documents forming College history.

THE QUEEN'S MEDAL

The Queen's Medal, originally the Kings' Medal, was awarded for the first time in 1935 to Flight Cadet Sergeant A J Mason, later Group Captain A J Mason, DFC. On the accession of Queen Elizabeth II the title was changed to the Queen's Medal, the first winner being Flight Cadet R J Barnard (55 Entry) in April 1952. Her Majesty was pleased to sanction the award for Graduate Entrant Officers on an annual basis and appropriately HRH the Duke of Kent presented the first medal to Flight Lieutenant J D Arkell (11 GE) in June of this year.

The medal, bearing on the obverse side the effigy of the Queen and on the reverse the words "The Queen's Medal Royal Air Force College Cranwell" and the year of the award, has the full name of the winner stamped around its edge. It is awarded by the Queen to the officer, who in the opinion of the Commandant, has produced the best performance in all aspects of training.

THE SWORD OF HONOUR

The Sword is awarded by the Air Force Board of the Defence Council to the graduate entrant who is recommended by the Commandant as having most distinguished himself in leadership and in general influence for the good of the College.

It was first awarded in 1921 to Under Officer C L Falconer, later Air Commodore

Falconer CBE. To date 106 swords have been awarded, 93 to Flight Cadets and 13 to Graduate Entrant Officers.

The first sword was presented at a Passing Out Ceremony by Winston Churchill when he was Secretary of State for War. The first Graduate Entrant Sword of Honour was presented in August 1971 to Flight Lieutenant G H MacKay by Air Chief Marshal Sir Dennis Spotswood, Chief of the Air Staff.

The sword is based on a light infantry pattern with a $\frac{3}{4}$ in. dumb-bell shaped blade, 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in length, embossed with the eagle and crown of the Royal Air Force on one side and the Royal Coat of Arms on the other. Both sides are embossed with Scroll work and laurel leaves. The winner's name and rank are also embossed on the blade.

The hilt is a half basket type of infantry pattern, gold plated to a quality of 18 microns. The eagle backstrap is unique to the Royal Air Force, with a Royal Air Force Cartouche on the hilt. The grip is covered in bleached fish skin bound by 3 turns of wire — 2 thin and one thick.

THE PHILIP SASOON MEMORIAL PRIZE

Sir Philip Sassoon, who died in 1939, was a former Under Secretary of State for Air. In his will he made provision for an annual income to provide the award to the best all-round student of the entry, excepting the winner of the Sword of Honour. The current value of the award is £35 and the money may be spent on some item of an intrinsically permanent nature.

World War II delayed the award's coming into effect and the first Philip Sassoon Memorial prize was awarded in April 1948 to Flight Cadet H R W Morris.

In addition to the monetary prize the winner receives a scroll and his name is inscribed on the appropriate Honours Board.

THE ROBERT MARSLAND GROVES MEMORIAL PRIZE

The prize was donated to the College in memory of Air Commodore R M Groves CB, DSO, AFC, who was killed in a flying accident in Egypt in 1920. Air Commodore Groves was the first Vice-Chief of the Air Staff.

The two principal donors of the award were Air Commodore Groves' mother and an uncle, Mr W G Groves. After their deaths, the association with both the College and the Royal Air Force was continued by Group Captain H M Groves who died in March of this year. The sole surviving donor is now Major Keith Groves, a brother of R M Groves, but keen interest in the award is maintained by other members of the family.

The prize consists of a book or books suitably inscribed with an inset portrait of Air Commodore Groves and a reproduction of his autograph. The choice of the books is that of the prizewinner, and there is also a monetary prize.

The Prize was first awarded in 1921 to Flight Cadet Sgt Hayter-Hames, subsequently killed in action in Warzistan. From 1929 the Kinkead Trophy was associated with the R M Groves prize, but it was not until 1958 that the prize was designated and awarded as "The R M Groves Memorial Prize and the Kinkead Trophy".

The late Group Captain Groves had taken steps to ensure that the financial value of the prize was sufficient to be awarded to Graduate Entrant officers. This became effective in 1973 when the prize was awarded to Flight Lieutenant P L Moules of No 9 Graduate Entry.

THE KINKEAD TROPHY

This handsome trophy was donated by the family and friends of Flight Lieutenant S M Kinkead DSO, DSC, DFC, who was killed in 1928 while attempting to break the world air speed record. As can be seen from his decorations, Flight Lieutenant Kinkead had an outstanding war record. He was an instructor at Cranwell from 1920-1924.

The trophy was presented to the College in 1929 and from that year until 1958 was



The Kinkead Trophy

awarded to the Squadron the member of which had won the R M Groves Memorial prize. In 1958 it was decided to give greater recognition to the trophy and so it was presented to the Flight Cadet who won the R M Groves Memorial prize and thus the names of two brave men were permanently linked.

R S MAY MEMORIAL PRIZE

The donor of the prize was Flight Lieutenant Richard May who entered the College as a Flight Cadet in 1948, was commissioned in 1950 and who was killed in a flying accident in 1958.

Flight Lieutenant May had made provision in his will for a sum of money to be placed in trust to produce an annual income sufficient for a monetary prize for each Sword of Honour winner. The first Flight Cadet to be awarded the prize was Senior Under Officer T F H Mermagen in July 1959 and in 1972 the necessary legal procedure was instituted so that the award might be transferred from the flight cadets to the Graduate Entrants. The first graduate entrant officer to receive the award was Flight Lieutenant P L Moules (9 GE).

These then are the awards: the Kinkead Trophy to the R S May Memorial Prize commemorating brave men who, even in death, sought to give back to their College in return for what they had received. At each Passing Out Ceremony let us remember such men and strive to follow their example of selfless Service.

19 DECEMBER
1921.

Sword of Honour Winners 1920s



The **Sword Of Honour** is awarded by the Air Force Board to the Defence Council to the graduate entrant who is recommended by the Commandant as having most distinguished himself in leadership and in general influence for the good of the College

Graduated	Winner and Entry	Winner and Entry
1921		CL Falconer (F20)
1922	D MacFadyen (S20)	N Carter (F21)
1923	GL Worthington (S21)	GCA Armstrong (F22)
1924	HRD Waghorn (S22)	GR Beamish (F23)
1925	TN McEvoy (S23)	EB Webb (J24)
1926	BC Yarde (S24)	J Clarke (J25)
1927	FR Worthington (S25)	AW Hunt (J26)
1928	NE White (S26)	GP Charles (J27)
1929	GRA Elsmie (J28)	KW Niblett

RM Groves Winners 1920s

Graduated	Winner and Entry	Winner and Entry
1921		NC Hayter-Hames (F20)
1922	D MacFadyen (S20)	R Lewes (F21)
1923	BDJ Broadway (S21)	GCA Armstrong (F22)
1924	RLR Atcherley (S22)	SHV Harris (F23)
1925	JGD Armour (F-> S23?)	JBM Wallis (J24)
1926	HA Purvis (S24)	J Clarke (J25)
1927	JW Gillan (S25)	CEStJ Beamish (J26)
1928	GNE Tindal-Carill-Worsley (S26)	DP Lascelles (J27)
1929	GRA Elsmie (J28)*	FC Cole*



From 1958, the **Kinkead Trophy*** was awarded to the student placed first in the overall final order of merit for flying skills. Earlier though, it was usually awarded to the flying squadron of the RM Groves winner and occasionally to the winner himself.

Abdy Gerrard Fellowes Winners 1920s

Graduated	Winner and Entry	Winner and Entry
1921		GH Mills (F20)
1922	LK Barnes (S20)	GH Randle (F21)
1923	GL Worthington (S21)	N Young (F22)
1924	AW Elias (S22)	AHWJ Cocks (F23)
1925	R Coats (S23)	HG Wisher (J24)
1926	WL Freebody (S24)	J Clarke (J25)
1927	FR Worthington (S25)	EA Jones (J26)
1928	F Whittle (S26)	BT Shelley (J27)
1929	GRA Elsmie (J28)	RL Phillips (S27)

Other Prize Winners 1920s

Graduated	SSC	AME&HP	Aero Eng P
1920	CW Weedon (F20)		
1921	GH Mills (F20)		
1922	D MacFadyen (S20) JS Newall (F21)		
1923	GL Worthington (S21) N Young (F22)		
1924	DA Boyle (S22) AHWJ Cocks (F23)		
1925	R Coats (S23) CM Heard (J24)	CM Heard (J24)	HD Spreckley (J24)
1926	WL Freebody (S24) J Clarke (J25)	WL Freebody (S24) WC Cooper (J25)	KS Brake (S24) J Clarke (J25)
1927	FR Worthington (S25) EA Jones (J26)	JAH Loudon (S25) KFT Pickles (J26)	CMcK Grierson (S25) ER White (J26)
1928	JNT Stephenson (S26) BT Shelley (J27)	HJ Pringle (S26) JGW Weston (J27)	WR Worstall (S26) BT Shelley (J27)
1929	DW Lane (S27) A Earle (J28)	REdeT Vintras (S27) RL Wallace (J28)	DW Lane (S27) A Earle (J28)

Sword of Honour Winners 1930s



The **Sword Of Honour** is awarded by the Air Force Board to the Defence Council to the graduate entrant who is recommended by the Commandant as having most distinguished himself in leadership and in general influence for the good of the College.

Graduated	Winner and Entry	Winner and Entry
1930	PB Coote (S28)	HAV Hogan (J29)
1931	CWM Ling (S29)	RHE Emson (J30)
1932	AN Combe (S30)	RV Rolph (J31)
1933	JVC Badger (S31)	GC Eveleigh (J32)
1934	PW Ashton (S32)	HM Styles (J33)
1935	HEC Boxer (S33)	MP Skinner (J34)
1936	PB Chamberlain (S34)	HF Burton (J35)
1937	JMN Pike (S35)	PGStG O'Brian (J36)
1938	BP Young (S36)	HFD Breese (J37)
1939	TN Stack (S37)	

King's Medal Winners 1930s



The **King's Medal** is awarded by HM the King to the officer who, in the opinion of the Commandant, has produced the best performance in all aspects of training.

Graduated	Winner and Entry	Winner and Entry
1930		
1931		
1932		
1933		
1934		
1935	AJ Mason (S33)	PJK Pike (J34)
1936	DA Kerr (S34)	CD Milne (J35)
1937	JMN Pike (S35)	JD Middleton (J36)
1938	CVD Willis (S36)	T Hurst (J37)
1939	JS Barnwell (S37)	

RM Groves Winners 1930s

Graduated	Winner and Entry	Winner and Entry
1930	GD Stephenson (S28)*	JP Cecil-Wright (J29)*
1931	GJL Read (S29)*	WP Sutcliffe (J30)*
1932	MH Rhys (S30)*	EBC Davies (J31)*
1933	AM Engineer (S31 - Indian)*	M Dawnay (J32)*
1934	RCF Lister (S32)*	HD Fraser (J33)*
1935	PT Philphott (S33)*	G Elsmie (J34)*
1936	RPR Powell (S34)*	LD Wilson (J35)*
1937	PAN Cox (S35)*	CD Palmer (J36)*
1938	RJ Sansom (S36)*	BH Way (J37)*
1939	RF Martin (S37)*	JSB Jones (J38)* RM Hogg (A38)*



From 1958, the **Kinkead Trophy*** was awarded to the student placed first in the overall final order of merit for flying skills. Earlier though, it was usually awarded to the flying squadron of the RM Groves winner and occasionally to the winner himself.

Abdy Gerrard Fellowes Winners 1930s

Graduated	Winner and Entry	Winner and Entry
1930	DV Angell (S28)	RT Cazalet (J (29)
1931	WE Oulton (S29)	GHO Mills (J30)
1932	MH Rhys (S30)	RG Stone (J31)
1933	BH Becker (S31)	CC Francis (J32)
1934	DG Stokes (S32)	ELF Meynell (J33)
1935	AJ Mason (S33)	RK Jeffries (J34)
1936	DA Kerr (S34)	HE Bufton (J35)
1937	PM Wigg (S35)	JD Middleton (J36)
1938	JF Cook (S36)	T Hurst (J37)
1939	JS Barnwell (S37)	

JA Chance Memorial Prize Winners 1930s

Graduated	Winner and Entry	Winner and Entry
1930		WTH Nichols (J (29)
1931	AD Messenger (S29)	GHO Mills (J30)
1932	AN Combe (S30)	JC Pope (J31)
1933	RR Fairweather (S31)	CC Francis (J32)
1934	DG Stokes (S32)	HC Vickery (J33)
1935	AJ Mason (S33)	E Banthorpe (J34)
1936	G Burges (J34-> S34)	CD Milne (J35)
1937	PM Wigg (S35)	JH Lapsley (J36)
1938	CVD Willis (S36)	JR Armitstead (J37)
1939	JS Barnwell (S37)	

Other Prize Winners 1930s

Graduated	SSC	AME&HP*	Aero Eng P
1930	PB Coote (S28) WS Reed (J29)	TOC Shirley (S28) FA Pearce (J29)	PB Coote (S28) WS Reed (J29)
1931	CW Williams (S29) A Pyke (J30)	HWA Chesterman (S29) AC Johnstone (S29) MFD Williams (J30)	NCS Rutter (S29) A Pyke (J30)
1932	DR Evans (S30) JC Pope (J31)	DR Evans (S30) DS Kite (J31)	RAC Carter (S30) JC Pope (J31)
1933	BH Becker (S31) CC Francis (J32)	BH Becker (S31) M Dawnay (J32)	BH Becker (S31) CC Francis (J32)
1934	DG Stokes (S32)	PJA Riddell (S32) EMT Howell (J33)	RG Yaxley (S32) HC Vickery (J33)
1935		AWJ Clark (S33) JA Chorlton (J34)	AJ Mason (S33) AR Atkins (J34)
1936		VC Darling (S34) RH McConnell J35)	VC Darling (S34) CD Milne (J35)
1937		PS Butler (S35) PGStG O'Brian (J36)	RT Frogley (S35) JH Lapsley (J36)
1938		JET Haile (S36) PA Major (S36)	CVD Willis (S36) HJR Dunn (J37)
1939		TN Stack (S37)	RE Harris (S37) AM Ruston (J38) TP Seymore (A38)

***AME&HP replaced by I&WSP in 1937**