

ARMY AWARDS FOR N. GUINEA FIGHTING

The Distinguished Service Order has been awarded to Major (Temporary Lieut.-Col.) Colin Hugh Boyd Norman, of Subiaco, W.A., who, in the campaign against Lae, led his battalion in battle formation through the Busu River, which was a raging torrent some 40 yards wide.

Although his company after being swept off their feet and carried downstream, there was no faltering. He landed the great bulk of his battalion and rapidly reorganised and led them against the enemy.

Lieut.-Col. Norman led and fought his battalion to a physical standstill after capturing Japanese equipment and causing severe casualties amongst the enemy.

His river crossing paved the way for subsequent successful operations of the brigade.

Lieut.-Col. Norman is included in a list of awards issued yesterday by the Governor-General (Lord Gowrie) for gallant and distinguished service in action in New Guinea during July, August and September, 1943.

The D.S.O. has also been awarded to Captain (Temporary Major) Keith Sinclair Picken, of Pevensey Crescent, East Geelong, Vic., and Captain Gordon Grimley King, of Gordon, N.S.W.

Major Picken was administering command of his unit during the later phase of the attacks on strongly-held enemy positions west of Salamaua. He personally contacted a company that was counter-attacked and surrounded by the enemy for several days and drove them off. Throughout the fierce fighting for many important objectives, Major Picken was constantly in the forefront of the battle, organising and planning for the defeat of the enemy which finally resulted in their evacuation of Salamaua. He responded cheerfully and willingly to every task, his influence and skilful handling of his battalion maintained a constant pressure on the enemy, forcing them from their well dug defensive positions.

In the Kaiapit action, Captain King, without any form of transport or native porters, led his company forward and although wounded in the leg, captured a Japanese held village during the afternoon. Two minor attacks were beaten off during the night. Early next morning the enemy with their superior numbers made a determined attack. Despite his wound, his rapidly diminishing ammunition supply and the burden of

wound, his rapidly diminishing ammunition supply and the burden of the wounded he could not move or protect, Captain King continually moved amongst his troops and finally seized the initiative. This brilliant and courageous action routed the enemy who left 143 dead on the field. His actions throughout were an inspiration to his men and by the capture of Kaiapit, with its landing field, the Division was able to advance 50 miles.

Other awards are as follow:—

THE MILITARY CROSS

Captain Robert Norman Hancock, Bacchus Marsh, Victoria.

Captain Donald Provan, South Brisbane.

Lieutenant (Temporary Captain) Victor Clyde Baird, Wangaratta, Vic.

Lieutenant (Temporary Captain) Harold Duglad Cullen, Wahgunyah, Victoria.

Lieutenant (Temporary Captain) John Stuart Winterflood, Red Hill, Queensland.

Lieutenant Leonard Arthur Barnett, People's Palace, Brisbane, Queensland.

Lieutenant John Wigram Brooks, Newmark, England.

Lieutenant Roy Hamilton Dawson, Mt. William Road, Gordon, N.S.W.

Lieutenant William Henry Fietz, Carrington St., Albury, N.S.W.

Lieutenant Leslie Franklin, Carlyle St., Moonee Ponds, Victoria.

Lieutenant Ian Evan Gamble, Princess St., McMahon's Point, N.S.W.

Lieutenant Thomas Hulse, Stopgate Lane, Walton Hall, Liverpool, England.

Lieutenant Lawrence Sherlock Proby, North St., Casino, N.S.W.

Acting-Lieutenant Leslie William Byrne, Moore St., Paddington, Brisbane, Queensland.

THE DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL

Corporal Neville May, Ludlow, W.A.

Corporal Keith Albert McEvoy, Grass Valley, W.A.

Corporal Alan Kenneth Naismith, Gunbower, Vic.

Acting-Corporal Leslie Daniel Hare, Newminster Park, Camperdown, Victoria.

Acting-Corporal Alfred Scott, Brunswick St., Fitzroy, Victoria.

THE MILITARY MEDAL

Acting Staff-Sergeant Cecil Sidney MacFarlane, Flinders Parade, Sandgate, Brisbane.

Sergeant Gordon Raymond Charles

gate, Brisbane.

Sergeant Gordon Raymond Charles Ayre, Maude St., Shepparton, Vic.

Sergeant Basil Turton Sinclair, Lochiel Avenue, Edithvale, Victoria.

Sergeant Maurice John Whitlam, Thompson Estate, Brisbane, Q'land.

Corporal (Acting Sergeant) Frank Peter Jones, Gloucester St., South Brisbane.

Corporal Charles Samuel Berry, Exeter, West Tamar, Tasmania.

Corporal Stanley James Hucker, Lake Bolac, Victoria.

Corporal William Henry Richards, Carter St., Northgate, Brisbane, Qld.

Corporal Eric James Shervey, Victoria St., Atherton, Queensland.

Corporal Graham Vernon Stevens, East St., Rockhampton.

Corporal Andrew Torrent, Stirling St., Perth, W.A.

Acting-Corporal Harold Edward Brockhurst, Black Mountain Road, via Pomana.

Acting-Corporal Ronald James Groundwater, Condoblin, N.S.W.

Lance-Corporal Bengari, Morobe District.

Lance-Corporal Thomas Ignatius Frawley, Bayles, Victoria.

Lance-Corporal Thomas Phillips, Tammymorel, via Warwick, Q'land.

Private Walter Alan Bayliss, Dreilham, Qld.

Private Bernard Donald Finn, Ballarat.

Private Stanley George Blythe, Ascot Vale, Vic.

Private George Albert Burns, Lismore, N.S.W.

Private Francis Cornwell Carver, Dutton Park, Brisbane.

Private Walter Henry Dawson, Caulfield.

Private Reginald James Domin, Gympie, Qld.

Private Heinrich Christian Forst, Ethelton, S.A.

Private Leslie George Gatton, Mount Morgan, Qld.

Private Sala.

Private Ervine Lionel Sallaway, Townsville, Qld.

Private Frederick George Taylor, Shepparton, Vic.

Private Herbert James Troughton, Railway Station, Mareeba.

Private Claude Wellings, Nilma, Victoria.