

~~RESTRICTED~~

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

AG 201-Ryan, William E.  
(23 Jul 43)

AFPO 500  
23 July 1943

SUBJECT: Orders.

TO : MAJ WILLIAM E RYAN 022526 AG, Perth, W.A.

Above-named O W on or about 23 July 1943 to AFPO 500 reporting upon arrival to the O W for assignment.

Travel by rail or commercial aircraft (per JO, AR 55-123, 26 Apr 1943), Govt motor F and rail authorized. NMI.

Per diem of \$4.00 authorized while traveling. TWT. TWT. 1-5600 P 431-02 A DAR/43425.

By command of General Headquarters

B. M. FITCH,  
Colonel, A.G.D.,  
Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION:

P.S.S. (1) ✓  
AG BRANDE (1)  
Dir A.F. (1)  
FO WAREHOSE (1)  
FO Base Sec 3 (2)  
Maj Ryan (5)  
AG Records (1)

DECLASSIFIED PER DA CIRC. 517  
23 DEC 53



~~RESTRICTED~~



F.R.S.      C. of S.      23 July 43  
Court C-2

Hereunder is a clipping just noted concerning DIESS, one of the  
evildoers in the PARSONS' Party.

C. W.



2



~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~  
26 July 1943

**SUBJECT:** Payment of Officer  
**TO :** Lieut. Col. A.H. Miller,  
Finance Officer,  
Base Section 3, APO 923

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR OF  
20 MAR 75

1. Reference Major WILLIAM R. DESS, 022526, Air Corps, the following information appears in the Official Army Registry for January 1, 1943:

2nd Lt. Air-Res. 6 Oct. 37; accepted 6 Oct. 37; active duty  
7 Oct. 37 to 14 Aug. 39; 1st Lt. AUS 9 Sept. 40; accepted  
7 Oct. 40; Capt. AUS 26 Jan. 42; Major AUS (A.C.) 1 Mar. 42. - -  
Flying Cadet, A.C. 10 Oct. 36 to 6 Oct. 37; 2nd Lt. A.C. 15  
Aug. 39; accepted 15 Aug. 39; 1st Lt. 15 Aug. 42.

2. This officer was in command of the 35th Pursuit Squadron on BATAAN, following the fall of BATAAN he was held as a prisoner of War by the Japanese until he escaped a few months ago. He has just been evacuated from the PHILIPPINES, arriving in BRISBANE yesterday afternoon.

3. This officer's statement that he has not received pay since November 30, 1941, appears to be correct.

COURTNEY WHITNEY,  
Colonel, Air Corps  
Chief, Philippine  
Regional Section



~~SECRET~~



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

P.R.S.

A.G.

26 July 43

Herewith for your files is a self-explanatory certificate accomplished  
by Major William E DYESS, Air Corps.

C. W.

1 Incl  
Certificate

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR 08  
20 AUG 75



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



28 July 1943

SUBJECT: Major William H. DYESS

TO : Colonel C. WHITNEY

1. In connection with the information you wanted today on the subject officer, I would like to point out that in my opinion (and certainly reflects that of the late Brig. General GEORGE in every instance), Major DYESS will emerge from the history of the ill-fated defense of the Philippines as one of the most courageous and gallant figures. He was selected by General GEORGE to lead-up what was the remains of our air forces into a tiny but extremely hard-hitting Squadron. Repeatedly the then Captain DYESS utilized his pitiful meagre resources to chase overwhelming enemy air strength from the skies, but on the 2nd of March, 1942, although a number of our pilots participated (and certainly did their full best), it was really Captain DYESS who must get the credit for sinking roughly 40,000 tons of Japanese shipping in SUBIC BAY - - easily the heaviest blow we delivered to the enemy's strength at any one time during the whole campaign.

2. Repeatedly Captain DYESS had urged that he be permitted to attempt bombing by means of single 500 lb bombs attached to a home-made device rigged on a "P-40." On this day when so much shipping was reported in SUBIC BAY that we were forced to conclude that an invasion attempt soon would be made on our west coast, General GEORGE gave permission. The attacks went on all afternoon with Captain DYESS flying our "bomber" with complete disregard of the great danger he was inviting upon himself. His bombing severely damaged several large vessels and set fire to large enemy stores on GRANITE ISLAND. But it remained to the deadly accuracy of his strafing to bring about the destruction - - unbelievable as it seems - - of a 17,000 ton vessel, 12,000 ton vessel, an 8,000 ton one and 2 or 3 small power-boats of between 500 and 1000 tons. (It is desired not to detract from the good work done by the other pilots, but since I interviewed all of them and wrote their operational report to the O/S, I am able to evaluate this work accurately.) So effective was this attack that the Japs officially reported that "54" four-engined "bombers" had attacked them.

A.F.I.





LORENGAU

The aircraft strafed a building on the shore and also strafed and set fire to the schooner.

Rounds Fired: 400 x 50 cal. and 70 x 30 cal.

Note: The last report on the condition of the LORENGAU Aerodrome was from photographs taken 5/7/42 and reported in Situation Report No. 300, para. 8, which reads:-  
"Runway unchanged and bomb craters not filled in".

NEW IRELAND

Aircraft  
2343/10  
5 A.F.  
2385/10

11. KAVIENG AREA

(a) Composition

Position

Time  
Course and  
Speed  
Sighted by

Enemy Shipping Sighted 18/10

- : Two destroyers
- : One transport (8,000 tons)
- : 2°40'S, 150°48'E (in BALGAI BAY, 7 miles S. of KAVIENG)
- : 1610L/18
- : Not stated - apparently stationary.
- : A B.17 on reconnaissance.



~~██████████~~ 0 3  
MR. R. T. DYESS  
ALBANY TEXAS

GIVE NO STATEMENTS OR  
PUBLICITY CONCERNING ME.

William E. Dyess





NEW BRITAIN

5 A.F.  
2346/10

12. RABAUL

Allied Air Attack 17-18/10

Preliminary report:-

A preliminary report received on the attack by B.17's on RABAUL during the night of 17-18/10, states that the township of RABAUL, LAKUNAI aerodrome and shipping were attacked. The report states further that one large explosion occurred on an unidentified ship.

5 A.F.  
2387/10

13. PILELO ISLAND (74 miles W. of GASMATA)

Allied Air Attack 18/10

Time of Attack

: Between 1540L and 1645L/18.

Target

: a) One single engine twin floatplane.  
b) PILELO Village and dock.

Aircraft Involved

: 3 B.25's.

Bombs Dropped

: 6 x 500 lb. inst. demo. from 5000 feet.

Results

: a) The seaplane received a direct hit.  
b) Direct hits were registered on the dock and village. Fires were observed.

Observations : A second possible seaplane was observed anchored close to mainland.



Mrs. W. E. Dyess )  
CHAMPAIGN III.

Give no statements or  
Publicity concerning me

William E. Dyess

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR 08  
20 AUG. 75



~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

P.R.S. A.G. 28 July 43

Recommend that the following message be despatched to the War Department at the request of Major WILLIAM E. DYESS, acting in compliance with W.D. message No. 6152, twentyseventh:

"DYESS REQUESTS PAREN YOUR SIX ONE FIVE TWO TWENTYSEVENTH PAREN FOLLOWING MESSAGE BE TRANSMITTED TO MRS W E DYESS CMA CHAMPAIGN ILL AND MR R T DYESS CMA ALBANY TEXAS QUOTE GIVE NO STATEMENT OR PUBLICITY CONCERNING ME."

G. V.

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR OE  
20 AUG 75



3

~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

P.R.S.

C-in-C  
TISU: C/S

28 July 43

1. Message Major BYSS to family forwarded by Navy from PERTH reads  
"SAFE IN PERFECT HEALTH LETTER FOLLOWS VIA AIR MAIL."
2. He has mailed no letter and is now wiring to same source:  
"GIVE ABSOLUTELY NO STATEMENTS OR PUBLICITY CONCERNING ME."
3. Recommend despatch of following wire to Chief of Staff, War Department:  
"BYSS MESSAGE PAREN REFERENCE YOUR SIX ONE FIVE TWO PAREN TO  
FAMILY THROUGH NAVY CMA PRIOR TO ARRIVAL THIS HEADQUARTERS CMA  
HEAD QUOTE SAFE IN PERFECT HEALTH LETTER FOLLOWS VIA AIR MAIL UN-  
QUOTE PD ALL OFFICERS WILL GIVE WARNING DIRECTED PD AFTER STUDY  
OF EVIDENCE IN REFERENCE ENEMY TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR IN  
THIS THEATER INTEND CMA IN EXERCISE OF MY DISCRETION AS THEATER  
COMMANDER CMA TO RELEASE CERTAIN PARTS WITHOUT DISCLOSING METHOD  
OF ESCAPE OR EVALUATION OR NAMES OF ANY LIVING PERSONNEL OTHER  
THAN ESCAPEES CMA AS A MEANS OF SECURING BETTER FUTURE TREATMENT  
AND IN EFFORT TO SAVE LIVES OF THOSE STILL SURVIVING."

C. W.

DECLASSIFIED FOR JCS LIB ON  
20 APR 75



~~SECRET~~



P.R.S.

C-in-C  
Thru: C/S

28 July 43

1. Message Major DYESS to family forwarded by Navy from PERTH reads  
"SAFE IN PERFECT HEALTH LETTER FOLLOWS VIA AIR MAIL."
2. He has mailed no letter and is now wiring to same sources  
"GIVE ABSOLUTELY NO STATEMENTS OR PUBLICITY CONCERNING ME."
3. Recommend despatch of following message to Chief of Staff, or Assistant  
Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department:

"DYESS MESSAGE PAREN REFERENCE YOUR SIX ONE FIVE TWO PAREN TO  
FAMILY THROUGH NAVY CMA PRIOR TO ARRIVAL THIS HEADQUARTERS CMA  
READ QUOTE SAFE IN PERFECT HEALTH LETTER FOLLOWS VIA AIR MAIL  
UNQUOTE PD ALL OFFICERS WILL GIVE WARNING DIRECTED PD AFTER  
STUDY OF EVIDENCE IN REFERENCE ENEMY TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF  
WAR IN THIS THEATER I INTEND CMA IN EXERCISE OF MY DISCRETION  
AS THEATER COMMANDER CMA TO RELEASE CERTAIN PARTS WITHOUT DISCLOSING  
METHOD OF ESCAPE OR EVACUATION OR NAMES OF ANY LIVING PERSONNEL  
OTHER THAN ESCAPES CMA AS A MEANS OF SECURING BETTER FUTURE  
TREATMENT AND IN EFFORT TO SAVE LIVES OF THOSE STILL SURVIVING."

4. Would appear to be much more chance of securing the implied approval  
of the War Department if you state your intention, which requires no further  
action on its part, than if you query it as to any limitation on your authority  
due to the restrictive message in reference. Careful analysis of the message  
shows that the restriction, strictly speaking, is directed to the officers con-  
cerned rather than to you.

C. W.





S. C. Form No. 7

# Signal Corps, United States Army

Received at

DESPATCHED

X

PRIORITY X

**PRIORITY**

1942 JUN 29 08 23 00

**SECRET**

A.G. RADIO & CABLE SECY  
G.H.Q. S.W.P.A.

28 July 1943

AG (FRS) DJS/spp

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LIR 02  
20 AUG. 75

AGWAR

DYESS REQUESTS PAREN YOUR SIX ONE FIVE TWO JULY TWENTY SEVENTH WDCBI  
PAREN FOLLOWING MESSAGE BE TRANSMITTED QUOTE GIVE NO STATEMENT OR  
PUBLICITY CONCERNING BE UNQUOTE TO MRS WILLIAM HAST DYESS ONA (C-4311)  
CHAMPAIGN ILLINOIS AND MR ROGER TARE DYESS ONA ALBANY TEXAS  
JUL 28 1943

MACARTHUR

A.G. RADIO & CABLE SECY  
G.H.Q. S.W.P.A.

OFFICIAL:

B. M. FITCH,  
Colonel, A.S.D.,  
Adjutant General.



Copy to  FRS

## INFORMATION COPY

The making of an exact copy of this message is forbidden  
Only such extracts as are absolutely necessary will be  
made and marked consistent with its classification.



COPIE

Major Dyess

28 July 1943

~~SECRET~~

TO : GHQ SWPA (MACARTHUR)  
FROM : WASHINGTON (STRONG)  
NR : 6152 TWENTY SEVENTH

(PARAPHRASED MESSAGE)

FROM WDCBI - DYESS MESSAGE TO FAMILY INCLUDING MEANS OF EVACUATION  
ALREADY GIVEN WIDE PUBLICITY PD CAUTION MCCOY MELLNIK DYESS ABSOLUTELY  
NO PUBLICITY AND HAVE TERN WARM FAMILIAR GAINS

MARSHALL

TOO 28/0352 X  
TOR: SC MSG GEN 28/0659 X  
TOR: AG R/C SWPA 28/0719 X

DECLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR ON  
20 AUG. 75



RECEIVED:  
✓ Major Dyess  
✓ Lt. Commander Parsons  
Major Mellnik  
Capt. G.E. Smith

DECLASSIFIED PER AR 310-5

02

~~SECRET~~



28 July 1943

SUBJECT: Major William E. DYESS

TO : Colonel C. WHITNEY

1. In connection with the information you wanted today on the subject officer, I would like to point out that in my opinion (and certainly reflects that of the late Brig. General GEORGE in every instance), Major DYESS will emerge from the history of the ill-fated defense of the Philippines as one of the most courageous and gallant figures. He was selected by General GEORGE to head-up what was the remains of our air forces into a tiny but extremely hard-hitting Squadron. Repeatedly the then Captain DYESS utilized his pitiful meagre resources to chase overwhelming enemy air strength from the skies, but on the 2nd of March, 1942, although a number of our pilots participated (and certainly did their full best), it was really Captain DYESS who must get the credit for sinking roughly 40,000 tons of Japanese shipping in SUBIC BAY - - easily the heaviest blow we delivered to the enemy's strength at any one time during the whole campaign.

2. Repeatedly Captain DYESS had urged that he be permitted to attempt bombing by means of single 500 lb bombs attached to a home-made device rigged on a "P-40." On this day when so much shipping was reported in SUBIC BAY that we were forced to conclude that an invasion attempt soon would be made on our west coast, General GEORGE gave permission. The attacks went on all afternoon with Captain DYESS flying our "bomber" with complete disregard of the great danger he was inviting upon himself. His bombing severely damaged several large vessels and set fire to large enemy stores on GRANDE ISLAND. But it remained to the deadly accuracy of his strafing to bring about the destruction - - unbelievable as it seems - - of a 17,000 ton vessel, 12,000 ton vessel, an 8,000 ton one and 2 or 3 small power-boats of between 500 and 1000 tons. (It is desired not to detract from the good work done by the other pilots, but since I interviewed all of them and wrote their operational report to the C/S, I am able to evaluate this work accurately.) So effective was this attack that the Japs officially reported that "54" four-engined "bombers" had attacked them.

*A.W.I.*  
A.W.I.





~~SECRET~~

G.H.Q. SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC AREA, CHECK SHEET

(Do not remove from sheets)

From	To	Date	Remarks
P.R.S.	G-IN-C Thru: C/S	30 July 43	<p>1. Here are the statements of Lieut. Cmdr. McCOY and Major DYESS as to which I should like to get your approval before being signed. While drawn in their own words, without either compulsion or suggestion on my part, I edited the original drafts to delete material I thought should not be in and helped a bit on the concluding remarks.</p> <p>2. Navy has made tentative arrangements for Commander McCOY to leave for the U.S. by plane on Saturday. They understand of course that he is not to leave without your concurrence.</p> <p>3. Request instructions.</p> <p>2 Incls: Statements of McCOY and DYESS.</p> <p><i>C.W.</i> C. W.</p> <p>DISCLASSIFIED PER JCS LTR ON 20 AUG. 78</p> <p><i>File</i></p> <p>McANTHUP ARCHIVES</p> <p><del>SECRET</del></p>



~~SECRET~~

G.H.Q. SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC AREA, CHECK SHEET

(Do not remove from sheets)

From	To	Date	Remarks
P.R.S.	S-15-C Thurs 6/8	30 July 43	<p>1. Here are the statements of Lieut. Col. MOORE and Major DYER as to which I should like to get your approval before being signed. While drawn in their own words, without either omission or suggestion on my part, I edited the original drafts to delete material I thought should not be in and helped a bit on the concluding remarks.</p> <p>2. Key has made tentative arrangements for Commander HULL to leave for the U.S. by plane on Saturday. They understand of course that he is not to leave without your concurrence.</p> <p>3. Request instructions.</p> <p><i>Key</i></p> <p>2 Incls: Statements of MOORE and DYER.</p> <p>32</p> <p>DECLASSIFIED PER ACS LTR 09 30 APR 85</p> <p><i>file</i></p> <p><del>SECRET</del></p>



P.R.S. G-2 1 August 43  
(Gen. Willoughby)

1. Herewith are copies of the sworn statements of Lieut. Commander MELVIN H. McCOY, U.S.N., and Major WILLIAM E. DYESS, U.S.A., prepared by direction of the C-in-C, for your information and file. The statement of McCOY since has been ratified, if any modification is made in the DYESS statement you will be advised.

2. Statement of Major STEPHEN M. MELLNIK, U.S.A. is now in the process of preparation.

C. W.

2 Incls:  
Statement of Lt. Cmdr. McCOY.  
" " Major DYESS.



CF



4 August 1943

SUBJECT: Certificate.

TO : A-1, Headquarters, 5th Air Force

1. I hereby certify that I had direct knowledge of the existence of an order awarding Major WILLIAM E. DYESS, O-22526, AC, the Silver Star on or about February 6, 1942 for outstanding service performed while he was serving as "an air corps infantryman" on the west coast of Bataan.

2. I recall that on the day the orders were published General George shock heads with the then Lieutenant Dyess saying, "This isn't what we wanted but it will do for the time being."

3. I do not believe a copy of the orders exist in Australia and possibly not at all since so many of our records were destroyed.

4. It is my absolute conviction that there is no question about the validity of Major Dyess' right to this decoration and substantiation is to be found in the list of individuals cited in the "Roster of the 24th Pursuit Group" compiled by Colonel W. O. Grover, just prior to his return to the United States. In this report under "Silver Star" will be found the name of 1st Lieutenant William E. Dyess.

ALLISON W. HED, Lt. Col.,  
Deputy Controller,  
Allied Intelligence Bureau.



PF



AG 201-Dyess, William E.  
(4 Aug 43)

Asst AG Major William 4 August 1943  
E. Dyess  
(AIB)

As there is no record at this headquarters or at Headquarters, United States Army Forces in the Far East, of your having completed the W.D., A.G.O. Form 66-1 (Officers and Warrant Officers Qualification Card), it is requested that the attached work sheet therefor be completed and returned to this office to be transcribed to the printed form.

1 Incl:  
As identified above.

D.C.S.

---

P.R.S.      AG      5 Aug 43

Complied with.

C.F.

1 Incl  
Form 66-1 Accomplished.





P.R.S. Chief of Staff 5 Aug 43

Reference my Check Sheet of this morning transmitting statements of WELLMER, DYESS, and MCCOY, attention is invited to attached message from the War Department, No. 6448, just received which requires that statement from Lieut. Col. WELLMER and Major DYESS be forwarded to the War Department. Security certificates have been obtained from both officers.

G. W.

2 Incls  
WD msg No. 6448



21



G-2

AIB  
PRS

6 AUG/45

1. Contents noted. This exchange of views is not without merit. I was not aware that Dyess was around for two weeks; the impression given me was he engaged in formulating his reports in AIB, etc. I suggest that each Section advise the other when they are through with an interview, and move on to the next stop?

2. On perusal of present reports, it is apparent that technical features in the meaning of G-2, G-3, and G-4, are not covered. By agreement with G-2, these Sections are developing questionnaires, for future use, embodying the items they are interested in. The result of these interrogations will become, in fact, "technical appendices" to the basic report, which the person concerned may develop. Stenographic notes and exchange of copies between sections is contemplated such copies will be filed automatically with P.R.S.

C.A.W.





~~RESTRICTED~~

P.R.S.

AG

7 Aug 43

Attention invited to two preceding comments. It is understood that you will be advised by G-2 or G-3 when Major DYESS can be released.

C. W.



DECLASSIFIED PER DA CIRC. 7122  
23 DEC. 53

81

~~RESTRICTED~~

- 3 -



~~RESTRICTED~~

P.R.S.

AG

6 Aug 43

The following-named officer has been released by the C-in-C for return to the United States. It is understood that General KENNEY is taking the matter, as to his future disposition, up with General AIRFOLD direct. Suggest that orders be issued directing him to proceed by air to Washington, D.C., to report upon arrival thereof to the Commanding General, Army Air Forces for duty:

Major WILLIAM E. DYESS, O-22526, Air Corps

G. W.

DECLASSIFIED PER DA CIRC. #177  
23 DEC. 53



et

~~RESTRICTED~~



AG G-2 6 Aug 43

For concurrence. If this clearance can be expedited, this officer can probably go out on a plane this evening.

B.H.F.

G-2 P.R.S. 6 Aug. 43  
(thru: A.G.)

1. I suggest that orders, in such cases, be verified for clearance by Senior Staff Sections (G-3 and G-2) who may desire interviews with these men. Note A.G. interposition, which was sought.

2. I desire to interview Maj. Dyess, this P.M. G-3 Operations (Col. Wheeler) desires to interview this officer, briefly.

3. This procedure ought to apply in all cases in addition to whatever formal report is being prepared.

C. A. W.



AG

P.R.S. (AIB) 6 August 1943

To note and return. Please coordinate with G-2 and let me know as soon as orders can issue on this officer.

B.H.F.



P.R.S.

G-2

6 Aug 43

1. Officer concerned has been around for just short of two weeks. He has been interviewed by G-2, G-3, and this Section. Thought he was squeered dry by now. Sorry I overlooked the possibility that you and G-3 might want another session with him. Yet you are quite right in your above comment and it was thoughtless of me not to verify with you and G-3 as well as the G-in-C that his release was in order. Am grateful that the A.G. caught my error.

2. Please advise A.G. or have G-3 do so when Major DYESS can be released.

C. W.

DECLASSIFIED PER DA CIRC. 7127  
23 DEC. 53



ES



PERSONNEL FILES

INDIVIDUAL

DYESS, WILLIAM E.