

Gp Capt Tom Lionel Anderson, Vr.C, S.C. (retd)



28 September 1921 to 26 October 2013

Tom joined the Air Force in April 1945, when it was the Royal Indian Air Force.

Awards and Decorations

Number of Awards: 2



Shaurya Chakra

Gp Capt **Tom Lionel Anderson** 3126 GD(P) **Award Date** 19 Oct 56 **Announced** 15 Sep 58 No Image Available

Details : [Citation / Details Not Available](#)

Unit :

Reference : Bharat Kumar, Pg96

Vir Chakra

Wg Cdr **Tom Lionel Anderson** 3126 GD(P) **Award Date** 20 Oct 62 **Announced** 26 Jan 63 No Image Available

Details : On 20th October, 1962, after the Chinese had invaded our borders it became evident that Chushul airfield in Ladakh would be one of their main objectives. The garrison at Chushul depended mainly on air supply. In order to prevent our aircraft from supplying the garrison, the Chinese had established a number of MMG posts near the airfield circuit. Although each sortie to Chushul was fraught with grave danger from concentrated enemy fire, wing Commander Anderson, was in command of one of our Transport Squadrons, flew nearly 70 operational hours during the critical days, delivering vital supplies to the garrison. It was due to his courage and perseverance that the tank lift to Chushul was made possible. His ceaseless efforts inspired the officers and men of his squadron to work round the clock to maintain the supplies required for the survival of the garrison.

In these operations, Wing Commander Anderson displayed commendable courage and unflinching devotion to duty

Unit : [44 Squadron](#)

Reference : Gazette of India , 16th February 1963 - No. 18-Pres/63., dated 26th January, 1963

Squadron Leader TOM LIONEL ANDERSON

(3126) General Duties (Pilot)

(Effective date of award: 25th October, 1956)

During the operations in the Naga Hills in October, 1956, the I. A. F. was assigned the task of dropping supplies in the two zones of Zekwera and Dzulake which were not only extremely small but difficult to approach since flying in the area was full of hazards due to the treacherous air currents at the dropping zones. As the operations could not be put off, Sqn. Ldr. Anderson volunteered to carry out the task. He flew four sorties between 19th and 25th October, 1956 and dropped the necessary supplies. The hazardous task was a trial of both courage and skill. The fact that the dropping zone had to be subsequently abandoned as being too dangerous for airdrops goes to show the extent risk that the officer had accepted and the determination that he displayed.

The gallant act of Sqn. Ldr. Anderson is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Air Force.

Authority: Notification No. 25-Pres/58 dated 15th September, 1958 published in Part 1, Section 1, Gazette of India dated 20th September, 1958.

Ashok Chakra Class III was later renamed as Shaurya Chakra



एयर कमोडोर एच बेन्स अवि से मे वि से मे
Air Commodore H Bains AVSM VSM

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18 Feb 15

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

Group Captain Tom Lionel Anderson Vrc SC served in the Indian Air Force from 09 April 1945 to 28 October 1969. Group Captain Tom Lionel Anderson was a double decorated veteran – one of the rare officers to be awarded a wartime gallantry award as well as a peace time gallantry award. He had a Shaurya Chakra and a Vir Chakra in his name.


(एच बेन्स)/(H Bains)
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ए. डी. ऑ. ३/१९१८०-३ (एच)

My thanks to Mrs Sheila Anderson for these photographs.



August 1969

Dy Director (Transport) Ops.
Air Head Quarters

Ms Christine Conquest
ARAIA Membership Secretary
23 May 2016