

the cockpit and the aircraft was riddled with holes. Nevertheless, Pilot Officer Molesworth, ably assisted by Pilot Officer Denny, who gave a running commentary on the attacker's movements, finally shook off the attacker and headed for this country. Immediately following the action, Pilot Officer Denny, despite the holes in the floor of the aircraft, climbed through the bomb well to make contact with the air gunner. Pilot Officer Molesworth flew the damaged aircraft back to this country but, shortly after crossing the coast at 700 feet, the starboard engine failed. Displaying great skill, however, he force-landed in the darkness with the undercarriage retracted. On impact, the aircraft caught fire but, with complete disregard for danger, Pilot Officer Denny entered the rear cockpit and rescued the trapped air gunner. Throughout the operation, these officers showed great courage and set an example worthy of high praise.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Can/R.58623 Flight Sergeant Edward Sudbury ALEXANDER, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 419 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

One night in April, 1942, Flight Sergeant Alexander was the observer of an aircraft detailed to attack Kiel. The attack was completely successful but, on the return flight, the aircraft was engaged by an enemy fighter. Damage was caused to the port propeller and the hydraulic system, and the rear turret was so severely damaged that the gunner was unable to open its doors. Flight Sergeant Alexander, although slightly wounded in the arm, forced the turret doors with an axe and helped the rear gunner out. Although nearly all the instruments were unserviceable, Flight Sergeant Alexander's skilful navigation was mainly responsible for the safe return of the aircraft and crew. The courage and high sense of duty displayed by this airman has been an inspiration to other members of the crew.

Aus. 404692 Sergeant Virgil Paul BRENNAN, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 249 Squadron.

This airman is a most determined and courageous pilot. An exceptional shot, he always presses home his attacks with vigour. In 2 combats, he has destroyed at least 4 enemy aircraft and damaged others.

N.Z. 404362 Sergeant Raymond Brown, HESSELYN, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 249 Squadron.

Sergeant Hesselyn is a skilful and gallant pilot. Undeterred by odds, he presses home his attacks with outstanding determination. He has destroyed 5 enemy aircraft, 2 of which he shot down in one engagement.

1014448 Sergeant Herbert Lloyd WYNNE, No. 51 Squadron.

One night in April, 1942, this airman captained an aircraft detailed to attack Rostock. Whilst over the target area, the aircraft was hit and damaged by shell-fire and Sergeant Wynne was wounded in the face. Nevertheless, the objective was successfully bombed. The return flight was made in the face of considerable difficulty owing to the damage sustained and, when still some 200 miles from the English coast, the starboard engine failed. Movable equipment was jettisoned

and height was maintained. Eventually, Sergeant Wynne flew the damaged aircraft to this country where he made a skilful landing with the undercarriage retracted. Throughout, this airman displayed great courage and an outstanding determination to complete his allotted task.

*Air Ministry,
22nd May, 1942.*

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy:—

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commander John Peter RYLAND, No. 13 Squadron.

This officer was appointed to command the advanced operational base at Namlea early in December, 1941, and, later during that month, assumed command of No. 13 Squadron at Ambon. He took an active part in reconnaissance duties against the enemy and obtained much valuable information. He led every raid made by his squadron against Manado where enemy shipping was successfully attacked and bombed. From Ambon he completed approximately 250 hours operational flying against the enemy. After leaving Ambon, immediately prior to the Japanese occupation, the squadron returned to Australia and from there has since continued its reconnaissance duties and attacks against the enemy. In the course of these attacks Wing Commander Ryland led an extremely successful night raid against Japanese-occupied Dilli. His devotion to duty whilst flying, his personal courage and determination displayed in the face of heavy odds proved the inspiration of all under his command.

Flight Lieutenant Richard Archibald DUNNE, No. 13 Squadron.

This officer was one of the original party which moved to Ambon early in December, 1941, and remained there until the time of the enemy occupation at the end of January, 1942. While stationed at Ambon he continuously led his flight in operations against the enemy and took part in numerous reconnaissance flights and raids upon enemy shipping at Manado and Kema, enemy assembly bases. In these operations he completed over 200 hours operational flying. When leading a flight in formation on the raid on the Japanese base at Tobi Island, his Squadron Leader crashed but Flight Lieutenant Dunne unhesitatingly took command and successfully completed the original mission. On many raids completed by him against the enemy, when losses were high, owing to strong fighter opposition and ground fire, he set the highest example of devotion to duty, leading his flight with courage, vigour, determination and complete disregard for his personal safety. Since the return of his squadron to Australia he has continued to take part in seaward reconnaissances and has led successful raids against the enemy at Koepang.