

most severe weather and icing conditions. Nevertheless this crew, displaying superb skill and undaunted determination, accomplished their task successfully. They displayed magnificent fortitude throughout.

*Distinguished Service Order.*

Pilot Officer Albert Brenton HARVEY (106869), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 600 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flying Officer Bernard Blake WICKSTEED (60434), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 600 Squadron.

One evening in June, 1942, Pilot Officer Harvey and Flying Officer Wicksteed were the pilot and observer respectively of a Beau-fighter which attacked a Heinkel III flying at sea level. During the combat the starboard engine of the Beaufighter was set on fire and put out of action and the port engine also sustained damage. Despite this Pilot Officer Harvey continued his attack and set the port engine of the Heinkel on fire. The enemy aircraft was soon burning fiercely and was lost to the sight of Pilot Officer Harvey through the smoke and flames from his own engine. Knowing that he would be unable to regain his base Pilot Officer Harvey advised his observer to abandon the aircraft. Displaying great coolness and exemplary courage Flying Officer Wicksteed, however, continued his duties, preparing for the crash by strapping his pilot in and refusing to prepare for his own escape. When the crash occurred, Flying Officer Wicksteed was momentarily trapped in the aircraft but eventually succeeded in escaping in an exhausted condition and without a dinghy. Pilot Officer Harvey assisted Flying Officer Wicksteed into his own dinghy and swam towards the shore, about 7 miles distant, pushing the dinghy in the process. After an hour Pilot Officer Harvey became exhausted and got on to the dinghy himself. When some 200 yards from the shore he left the dinghy and swam to the shore, scaled a cliff and walked to the Sector Operations Room where he organised a search party to return and rescue his observer. The courage and devotion to duty displayed by Pilot Officer Harvey undoubtedly saved the observer's life. Both officers displayed considerable gallantry during this sortie.

*Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Warrant Officer Herbert Victor PETERSON, D.F.C. (Can/R.60240), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 10 Squadron.

One night in June, 1942, Warrant Officer Peterson was the captain of a Halifax aircraft detailed to attack Essen. Whilst over the target the aircraft was held by strong searchlight cones and subjected to intense anti-aircraft fire. The port outer engine was hit and ceased to function. The windscreen was also damaged and a piece of perspex entered Warrant Officer Peterson's left eye. Nevertheless he continued to take evasive action and eventually set off on the return journey. Whilst over Holland, flying at 11,000 feet, he was attacked by an enemy fighter. His rear gunner delivered a short

burst which caused the enemy aircraft to burst into flames and dive away out of control. When crossing the Dutch coast the aircraft was again subjected to anti-aircraft fire and the starboard engine was put out of action. Despite Warrant Officer Peterson's injury and the severe damage sustained by the aircraft he succeeded in flying back to this country and landing on an aerodrome with which he was unfamiliar. Warrant Officer Peterson displayed fine courage and determination throughout.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Hugh Charles KENNARD (40396), No. 121 (Eagle) Squadron.

Squadron Leader Kennard has completed 58 offensive operations since he was appointed to command the squadron in January, 1942. In May, 1942, he led the squadron in a successful combat against 8 enemy aircraft, 2 of which were destroyed, 1 probably destroyed and another damaged. A few days later he led a flight in a successful attack against a minesweeper. Later in May, 1942, Squadron Leader Kennard led his squadron to attack an armed trawler off the Dutch coast. The trawler was observed to sink. Squadron Leader Kennard has commanded his squadron skilfully and has set an excellent example at all times.

Acting Squadron Leader John Robert PENNINGTON-LEGH (37826), No. 175 Squadron.

This officer has always shown great keenness to engage the enemy and has done so with consistently good results. The squadron, under Squadron Leader Pennington-Legh's excellent leadership, has sunk an enemy destroyer and a minesweeper and has probably sunk or seriously damaged a further 4 warships. In addition the squadron has attacked enemy aerodromes and inflicted considerable damage.

Flight Lieutenant Samuel Richard Creswick WOOD (Aus. 516), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 10 (R.A.A.F) Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Wood was the captain of a Sunderland aircraft which attacked a U-Boat in the Bay of Biscay. Shortly afterwards the Sunderland was attacked by an enemy aircraft. Severe damage was inflicted on the attacker and it is unlikely that the aircraft was able to return to its base. Despite the damage sustained by the Sunderland, Flight Lieutenant Wood succeeded in bringing his aircraft back safely. The cool courage and determination consistently displayed by this officer have set an excellent example.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Alan Jeffery ANDREWS (60748), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 91 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Andrews has completed 220 operational sorties in which he has displayed great skill in reconnaissances of shipping and in attacks on enemy vessels. He has shown a keen desire to engage the enemy in the air and has probably destroyed 2 Messerschmitt 109's and damaged other hostile aircraft.