

despite considerable opposition from enemy fighters, one being shot down. Ten days later he made a successful attack on enemy objectives during a blinding snowstorm. He has taken part in over forty raids, many of which have been carried out in appalling weather conditions and against severe enemy opposition. As senior flight commander he has consistently shown himself to be a leader of great skill, courage and determination.

Flying Officer Ernest Mitchelson Mason (40734), No. 274 Squadron.

In January, 1941, this officer destroyed three of a formation of nine enemy aircraft. He has continually shown a fine fighting spirit and has contributed materially to the heavy losses caused to enemy aircraft. He has shown outstanding courage and initiative and has destroyed at least thirteen hostile aircraft.

Flying Officer Adrian Warburton (41635), No. 431 Flight.

This officer has carried out numerous long distance reconnaissance flights and has taken part in night air combats. In October, 1940, he destroyed an aircraft and again, in December, he shot down an enemy bomber in flames. Flying Officer Warburton has at all times displayed a fine sense of devotion to duty.

*Awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.*

745736 Sergeant Frank Bastard, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 431 Flight.

This airman was observer of an aircraft the pilot of which was injured and rendered unconscious causing him to fall forward over the control column. Sergeant Bastard, however, managed to take over the control and flew the aircraft level until the pilot recovered. He subsequently assisted the pilot, whose left arm was useless, by manipulating the throttle when landing on the aerodrome. His actions were instrumental in saving the aircraft and crew. He has also been engaged in numerous combats with enemy fighters and has at all times displayed exceptional keenness and set a fine example.

776201 Sergeant Kenneth Murrell, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 237 (Rhodesia) Squadron.

On the 4th January, 1941, this airman was air gunner of an aircraft which led dive-bombing attacks on enemy objectives. Heavy anti-aircraft fire was encountered and, on pulling out of the second dive, Sergeant Murrell was hit in the knee by a piece of shrapnel which he removed with a screw-driver. He then began to deal with a fire which had broken out. He discovered that the airscrew covers had evidently been lighted by hot shrapnel and had flared up as a result of the increased draught in the rear cockpit. He threw these covers overboard and beat out with his hands the smouldering fire which had extended to the bomb-aimer's breast rest. The pilot had signalled to him to land by parachute, but he declined the invitation and continued to deal with the fire. The pilot then landed and the fire was extinguished by water, and the aircraft flown safely back to base. Sergeant Murrell displayed courage, initiative and devotion to duty of a high order.

*Air Ministry,*

*11th February, 1941.*

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards:—

*Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Wing Commander William Taylor Froest WIGHTMAN (26129), No. 94 Squadron.

Squadron Leader Robert Alfred MILWARD (37201), No. 30 Squadron.

Squadron Leader John Anthony Hustler TUCK (33101), No. 58 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant David William DONALDSON (70185), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 149 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Graham Reese MAGILL (39236), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 47 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Percy Rodney O'CONNOR (39641), No. 214 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Victor Robertson PATERSON (37478), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 78 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Marmaduke Thomas St. John PATTLE (39029), No. 80 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Edward Maurice WARE (36096), No. 228 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Philipp Richardson CROMPTON (72250), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 9 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Leslie CROOKS (44054), No. 58 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant John James MCKAY (40404), No. 102 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Donald Gordon OGILVIE (40010), No. 44 Squadron.

Flying Officer Eric Gordon BARWELL (77454), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 264 Squadron.

Flying Officer Richard Melville CURTIS (42200), No. 75 (New Zealand) Squadron.

Flying Officer William Twiston DAVIES (42204), No. 51 Squadron.

Flying Officer Leslie Oscar HALLS (76009), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 49 Squadron.

Flying Officer Michael James Carr HARWOOD (40824), No. 83 Squadron.

Flying Officer Gordie Keith LARNEY (33582), No. 75 (New Zealand) Squadron.

Flying Officer John Douglas MUNDY (41866), No. 83 Squadron.

Flying Officer Colin Guy Champion RAWLINS (72510), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 144 Squadron.

Flying Officer Roderick Malachi Seaburne RAYNER (40138), No. 87 Squadron.

Flying Officer Kenneth William TAIT (40441), No. 87 Squadron.

Flying Officer Philip Hampden TIPPETTS-AYLMER (41333), No. 51 Squadron.

Flying Officer Peter John VALACHOS (41225), No. 99 Squadron.

Flying Officer Michael Hugh YOUNG (42040), No. 264 Squadron.

Acting Flying Officer Harry Albert GOODWIN (79573), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 75 (New Zealand) Squadron.

Pilot Officer Peter Edward BERRY (42480), No. 9 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Geoffrey Wilson O'Neill FISHER (42560), No. 149 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Douglas Ferguson LAMB (42614), No. 9 Squadron.