

Acting Flight Lieutenant Cyril Patrick Joseph WOOD (69442), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 403 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has participated in 31 operational sorties over Northern France during which he has destroyed 3 and probably destroyed a further 2 enemy aircraft. He is a keen and skilful fighter pilot whose leadership and energy have set an inspiring example to his fellow pilots.

Pilot Officer Norman Worsley RICHARDSON (Aus. 404522), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 12 Squadron.

On 12th February, 1942, Pilot Officer Richardson was detailed to participate in an attack on the German battle cruisers passing through the Straits of Dover. In spite of extremely adverse weather conditions, Pilot Officer Richardson, displaying great perseverance finally located the objective off the Belgian coast. Whilst manoeuvring to attack the Gneisenau, in the face of a terrific barrage, Pilot Officer Richardson was wounded in the arm by a fragment of shell. In spite of this, he continued to press home his attack and, diving to 400 feet, he released his bombs which were observed to fall just in front of the bow of the cruiser. Although his aircraft was again hit by anti-aircraft fire, Pilot Officer Richardson flew his aircraft safely back to his base. Throughout, he set a splendid example of courage and determination.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

Aus. 400114 Sergeant Jacques DUPONT, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 230 Squadron.

In December, 1941, this airman was a gunner of a Sunderland aircraft which was attacked by 2 Messerschmitt 110's. In the first of several attacks, 2 of the Sunderland's gunners were wounded but Sergeant Dupont continued to use his guns most effectively. His accurate fire finally caused the attackers to terminate the engagement and one of them was observed to break away with smoke pouring from both engines. Following the engagement, Sergeant Dupont's aircraft was forced to descend on to the sea. He assisted in launching the dinghies and then sat in one of them; it was made fast to the Sunderland and, in most arduous conditions, Sergeant Dupont prepared it for the reception of one of his mortally wounded comrades. Working under great difficulties he successfully transferred the wounded airman into the dinghy. The aircraft, which had remained afloat, finally drifted and struck a reef. Sergeant Dupont cast off the dinghy immediately before this happened and, swimming alongside it, he guided it clear of the aircraft and clung to it through the breaking seas. When the dinghy capsized on the surf on the reef, Sergeant Dupont held on to his wounded comrade, who was completely helpless, and eventually carried him to the shore. In the most trying circumstances, this airman displayed gallantry and fortitude worthy of the highest praise.

750890 Sergeant Robert James WATSON, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

In February, 1942, this airman was one of the rear gunners of an aircraft which was

attacked by enemy fighters during a reconnaissance patrol. A cannon shell badly damaged the aircraft, killed another rear gunner, wounded Sergeant Watson in several places and set a fuel tank on fire. The rear cockpit became filled with smoke and flames but, disregarding his wounds, Sergeant Watson removed his comrade and manning his gun in time to meet the second attack, he shot down one of the enemy aircraft into the sea. He then endeavoured to quell the flames in the rear cockpit by throwing out burning material. His dead comrade's clothing was on fire and, in extinguishing the flames, Sergeant Watson sustained severe burns. He was barely conscious when his pilot finally landed at an aerodrome. This airman displayed great skill and courage in circumstances of extreme danger and was largely responsible for the safe return of his aircraft.

637036 Leading Aircraftman Norman Charles SHIRLEY, No. 69 Squadron.

One day in February, 1942, this airman was an occupant of an aircraft which, in the course of an operational sortie, was attacked by enemy fighters. Although he was wounded in 7 places, Leading Aircraftman Shirley bravely fought back using his guns with good effect. During the engagement, Verey cartridges exploded in his aircraft and set fire to the back seat, but, when the attack was concluded, Leading Aircraftman Shirley succeeded in extinguishing the flames. By his courage and presence of mind in trying circumstances, this airman, although suffering considerably from his wounds, undoubtedly saved his aircraft from destruction.

*Air Ministry,*

*3rd March, 1942.*

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

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

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Wing Commander Henry Neville Gynes RAMSBOTTOM-ISHERWOOD, A.F.C. (29116).

Squadron Leader Anthony Garforth MILLER (90088), Auxiliary Air Force, No. 134 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Anthony Hartwell ROOK (90071), Auxiliary Air Force, No. 81 Squadron.

The above awards are for gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations.

*Air Ministry,*

*3rd March, 1942.*

AWARDS OF A FOREIGN DECORATION.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

His Majesty has granted unrestricted permission for the wearing of the undermentioned