

made safe. Throughout, this airman, without any thought for his own welfare although suffering from cuts over the eye and severe shock, displayed most praiseworthy conduct.

628747 Acting Flight Sergeant John James Haggett Harding.

Flight Sergeant Harding is employed in the equipment section at a Royal Air Force Station in Malta. During heavy and almost continuous air attacks on the aerodrome he has displayed courage and fortitude of a high standard by continuing on duty until the enemy were practically overhead. During a recent attack the equipment section was destroyed and Flight Sergeant Harding, who was sheltering in a trench a very short distance away, immediately proceeded to organise the salvaging of valuable equipment. He had narrowly escaped injured whilst in the trench and was badly shaken but this did not deter him. The continuous devotion to duty displayed by Flight Sergeant Harding has inspired others and has contributed largely to the high standard of morale maintained in the section.

651142 Acting Flight Sergeant Hugh Shelley Stammwitz.

947276 Corporal Thomas Barkas.

One evening in March, 1942, an aerodrome in Malta was attacked and heavily bombed by about 50 enemy bombers and fires were started including those on a petrol bowser, an aircraft and an ammunition lorry which were close together. Flight Sergeant Stammwitz and Corporal Barkas immediately went to the scene and dealt with the fires, continuing to do so despite the heavy bombing, until all the fire extinguishers were empty. Corporal Barkas, with other members of the fire party, then proceeded to a site where a large number of incendiary bombs were burning (some of them were of the explosive type) and extinguished many. The leadership and courage displayed by these airmen set an excellent example.

758062 Sergeant Ian George Fadden, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

In October, 1941, fire occurred in the port engine of the aircraft in which this airman was flying over the desert. The aircraft was becoming uncontrollable and Sergeant Fadden, who had more experience than the pilot, took over the controls. Although the aircraft was in a semi-stalled position, he succeeded in obtaining partial control but was unable to prevent it from crashing. On impact, the starboard engine caught fire. Sergeant Fadden coolly remained in the pilot's seat until he thought everyone was safely clear but, when informed that the pilot was still in the aircraft, he went to him and found that he had both legs broken and was unconscious. With the assistance of 2 members of the crew, Sergeant Fadden dragged the injured pilot clear. The aircraft was now burning fiercely and in a short time was burnt out completely. This airman displayed great gallantry and presence of mind in an extremely trying and dangerous situation.

1187562 Leading Aircraftman Reginald Boddy.

During recent heavy bombing attacks on an aerodrome in Malta this airman, who is employed on aerodrome duties, has set a

magnificent example by his complete disregard of danger. Whilst intensive and prolonged air attacks have been in progress, he has continued his work and refused to take cover. He has been wounded twice and on both occasions returned to his work with the same courage and keenness after discharge from hospital. One evening in April, 1942, during an enemy air attack on the aerodrome, our aircraft, which were then landing, had to be dispersed. Leading Aircraftman Boddy remained on the aerodrome and assisted the crew out of the last aircraft and directed them to cover only a few seconds before it received a direct hit. Had it not been for the courage and devotion to duty displayed by this airman the crew would most likely have been seriously injured or killed.

615408 Leading Aircraftman Harold Benjamin Venn.

One day in March, 1942, Leading Aircraftman Venn, as a member of a fire tender party, assisted in extinguishing a fire in an aircraft, which had been caused by an enemy raider and he was instrumental in saving a considerable part of the aircraft. On 3 occasions, on one day in March, 1942, the aerodrome was attacked and heavily bombed. Fires were caused in petrol bowsers and aircraft, and, while the raids were in process, Leading Aircraftman Venn, with complete disregard of danger, again assisted in extinguishing the fires. The courage and devotion to duty displayed by this airman, have been outstanding.

1211341 Leading Aircraftman John Henry Whitehorn.

Leading Aircraftman Whitehorn, a despatch rider, has shown complete disregard for his own safety during a long period of persistent enemy attacks at Malta and, although injured on two occasions when delivering messages, he has continued and completed his missions. The courage and devotion to duty displayed by Leading Aircraftman Whitehorn have contributed largely to the high standard of morale maintained by his fellow airmen. He has shown a willingness to undertake any job.

967198 Leading Aircraftman Alexander Williamson.

1155981 Leading Aircraftman Ernest John Clarke.

One day in February, 1942, an aircraft crashed and caught fire on impact. Aircraftmen Williamson and Clarke immediately attempted to render assistance. Pulling their scarves over their faces and their balaclavas over their hands, both these airmen entered the blazing wreckage and dragged out a member of the crew. Small arms ammunition and flares were exploding all around, but Aircraftmen Williamson and Clarke re-entered the aircraft and attempted to remove other members of the crew. Both these airmen displayed great courage and disregard of danger.

Sergeant Frederick Getty Higgs, Royal Australian Air Force.

Sergeant Higgs was N.C.O. in charge of operations and the maintenance of R/T fighter control in the locality of enemy attacks upon