

the attacks made by following aircraft. His aircraft was severely damaged by enemy fire but, displaying skilful airmanship, he succeeded in flying it safely back to one of our landing grounds where he made a safe landing. Throughout the operation, this officer displayed great courage and determination to accomplish his task. On a previous occasion, Pilot Officer Dudley displayed great courage when he vigorously attacked Tobruk from a height of 1,500 feet.

Pilot Officer Alexander Hendry THOM (114075) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 87 Squadron.

This officer has been engaged on operational flying for a long period, both by day and by night. Throughout he has displayed great keenness and devotion to duty. He has destroyed 2 enemy aircraft both of which he shot down after pursuing them out to sea for more than 50 miles. On one occasion, he engaged a Heinkel III in extremely hazardous flying weather and probably destroyed it. Recently, Pilot Officer Thom has completed several successful intruder operations. He has invariably displayed initiative and courage.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

911932 Flight Sergeant Henry William ELLIS, No. 29 Squadron.

During the past 12 months Flight Sergeant Ellis has carried out many operational sorties. He has displayed a high degree of skill and initiative. In January, 1942, he assisted in the destruction of a hostile aircraft after a long pursuit. Some time later, in extremely unfavourable flying weather, his skilful and accurate directions enabled his pilot to overcome a difficult situation and make a safe landing. During a sortie in June, 1942, he performed excellent work in an engagement with an enemy aircraft which was probably destroyed. This airman has always maintained a very high standard of efficiency, while his devotion to duty has set a very fine example.

968126 Flight Sergeant Dalton John PRYTHERCH, No. 91 Squadron.

This airman pilot has completed numerous sorties, including several attacks on enemy shipping. He has destroyed 2 enemy aircraft, probably destroyed 3 others and damaged a sixth. Flight Sergeant Prytherch has shown great keenness to engage the enemy.

1151995 Sergeant Charles Binden CARTER, No. 88 Squadron.

In July, 1942, Sergeant Carter was the wireless operator/air gunner of an aircraft detailed to attack a target near Lille. Owing to bad visibility the primary objective could not be located but an alternative was attacked from a low level in spite of heavy fire from the ground defences. During the run up, Sergeant Carter silenced one enemy gun position but the aircraft was repeatedly hit by light anti-aircraft fire. A cannon shell entered the gunner's cockpit, wounded Sergeant Carter in the right hand and arm, exploded a very cartridge and set some ammunition on fire. Despite his wounds, Sergeant Carter continued to engage the enemy, delivering effective fire at the enemy's gun positions. When the aircraft flew clear of the fire zone, Sergeant Carter extinguished the fire in the well of the aircraft and continued to man his guns. By his skilful gunnery this airman contributed materially to the success of the operation. He has completed numerous sorties and has always set a high standard of efficiency.

543992 Sergeant Frederick DOLTON, No. 150 Squadron.

One night in July, 1942, this airman was the rear gunner of a bomber detailed to attack Duisburg. On the outward flight, when some 60 miles beyond the Dutch coast his aircraft was intercepted by a Junkers 88. Sergeant Dolton was unable to warn his captain to take evasive action as the inter-communication was unserviceable. Although his aircraft was subjected to repeated attacks, he met them all with indomitable courage and eventually shot the enemy aircraft down in flames. Throughout, this airman displayed great gallantry and devotion to duty. He has on 3 other occasions driven off enemy aircraft by the skilful handling of his guns.

548744 Sergeant John HOWARTH, No. 142 Squadron.

During an operational flight one night in July, 1942, Sergeant Howarth's aircraft was intercepted near Hamburg by a hostile fighter. The enemy's opening fire wounded the pilot and killed the navigator. Coolly and skilfully handling his guns, Sergeant Howarth met repeated attacks with devastating fire and, although after the first attack it was necessary to operate his turret manually, he eventually shot down the enemy aircraft. He then left his turret and went to the assistance of the wounded pilot. Taking over the controls, Sergeant Howarth flew the aircraft safely back to this country where his pilot, who had recovered sufficiently, made a safe landing. This airman displayed great courage and initiative throughout.

Aus. 401243 Sergeant Hugh Alexander McLENNAN, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 156 Squadron.

One night in July, 1942, this airman was the wireless operator of an aircraft detailed to attack Duisburg. When nearing the target area, the pilot was compelled to dive the aircraft violently, and Sergeant McLennan was thrown from his position in the astro-hatch. A box of incendiary bombs broke loose from its stowage, and the contents were scattered in the rear of the aircraft. One of the bombs became ignited, setting a further one alight and filling the aircraft with sparks and smoke. With his bare hands Sergeant McLennan picked up one of the blazing bombs and endeavoured to throw it out through the escape hatch. He was unable to open the hatch but, with great presence of mind, he pushed the burning bomb through the fabric of the fuselage. In spite of burns to his hands, he picked up the remaining bomb and disposed of it in a similar manner. By his prompt and courageous action, this airman averted an extremely serious situation.

964961 Sergeant Peter Dundas THOMSON, No. 28 Squadron.

One night in June, this airman displayed great determination when attacking an important convoy off the coast of Italy. In spite of heavy defensive fire, he pressed home his attack on the largest merchant ship, from close range. His aircraft was hit in several places and the navigator was seriously wounded. Despite this, Sergeant Thomson flew the aircraft back to base and made a safe landing without the use of the hydraulics.

*Air Ministry.*

14th August, 1942.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

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

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant Herbert Clarence PLENTY (Aus. 582), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 8 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Ronald WIDMER (Aus. 559), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 8 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Edwin Murray TAYLOR (85259), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 232 Squadron (since deceased):

Pilot Officer John Agy CAMPBELL (64859), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 258 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Robert Clifford BARCLAY (NZ41505), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 36 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

Aus. 2863 Flight Sergeant Ashley FROST, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 8 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

914547 Sergeant James Alan Sandeman ALLEN, No. 232 Squadron.

NZ405306 Sergeant Herbert Keith MINTON, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 36 Squadron.

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

AMENDMENT.

In notification of 11th June, 1942 (p. 2521, col. 1), regarding Acting Flight Lieutenant A. R. ROWERS (44296), for ROWERS read TOWERS.