

released his torpedo from close range. His aircraft was damaged by fire from enemy fighters, but he evaded them and flew safely to base. Throughout, he has displayed great skill and courage.

Pilot Officer James Stanley WATT (110643), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 7 Squadron.

Pilot Officer William Edward KING (Can/J.8771), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 7 Squadron.

One night in September, 1942, Pilot Officers Watt and King were captain and navigator respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Dusseldorf. When nearing the target area, the aircraft was held in a concentration of searchlights and hit by anti-aircraft fire. The intercommunication was rendered unserviceable and Pilot Officer King was wounded in the leg and stomach. Despite this, he bravely continued his duties. His subsequent navigation was of the greatest assistance to Pilot Officer Watt, who succeeded in flying his damaged aircraft back to this country. These officers, both of whom have completed many successful sorties, displayed outstanding devotion to duty in difficult circumstances.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1284386 Flight Sergeant John Lewis BARBER.

In the course of many searches and patrols, Flight Sergeant Barber has displayed both skill and devotion to duty as a member of the air sea rescue service. On one occasion, he rescued 4 members of the crew of an aircraft who had been afloat in their dinghy for 16 hours. During the combined operations at Dieppe on 19th August, 1942, this airman rescued the pilot of a Spitfire in most hazardous circumstances.

Aus. 400989 Flight Sergeant Frederick Roy JACKSON, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 460 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

One night in September, 1942, this airman was the captain of a bomber engaged in an attack on Duisburg. While in the target area the aircraft was held in a cone of searchlights and was hit by fire from the ground defences. Soon afterwards it was attacked by an enemy fighter which inflicted serious damage on the aircraft and wounded many of the crew. Despite this perilous situation, Flight Sergeant Jackson flew his badly damaged aircraft back to this country. He displayed high courage and resource and superb airmanship.

Can/R.66150 Flight Sergeant Hubert Fortescue WATLINGTON, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 39 Squadron.

This airman pilot has displayed exceptional ability and his courage has been an example to his fellow pilots. In September, 1942, he was pilot of an aircraft in the leading flight of a force detailed to attack an enemy convoy with a formidable escort of destroyers and fighter aircraft. Despite the opposition Flight Sergeant Watlington pressed home his attack from short range and, although both of his air gunners were wounded during attacks by fighters, this airman succeeded in evading his attackers and flew his aircraft back to base safely.

Aus. 404005 Sergeant Francis Lawrence CURR, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 75 (N.Z.) Squadron.

This captain of aircraft has completed numerous operational sorties. In each case, Sergeant Curr has pressed home his attacks from a low level to ensure success. His courage and energetic devotion to duty have been an example to others and are worthy of the highest praise.

1381997 Sergeant William Walter Owen DIGGINS, No. 15 Squadron.

This airman was the rear gunner in an aircraft which attacked Hamburg. After leaving the target area, the bomber was attacked by a Messerschmitt 110 from close range. Sergeant Diggins coolly directed his pilot in evasive tactics and, by skilful use of his guns, he caused the port engine of the fighter to burst into flames. This airman has displayed high courage and keenness at all times.

Aus. 400752 Sergeant Peter James Vernon GHORHAM-HENDERSON, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 460 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

One night in July, 1942, when operating near St. Nazaire, this airman destroyed an enemy fighter which intercepted the bomber in which he was the rear gunner. On another occasion he opened fire on a Junkers 88 which attacked his

aircraft and the enemy fighter burst into flames and dived away. The courage and determination displayed by this airman, combined with his skill as a gunner, contributed considerably to the safe return of his aircraft on both occasions.

647295 Sergeant Harry MEADES, No. 15 Squadron.

This airman has displayed the utmost courage and efficiency and has set a worthy example to others. During a daylight attack on Br est he destroyed 2 enemy fighters which intercepted the bomber in which he was a gunner. By accurate gunfire he extinguished many searchlights and silenced an anti-aircraft gun during a recent low level attack on submarine slipways at Lubeck.

921030 Sergeant George Edward SANDERSON, No. 39 Squadron.

Sergeant Sanderson was the pilot of one of a force of aircraft detailed to attack 4 enemy merchant vessels escorted by 11 destroyers and a strong force of fighter aircraft. Despite this considerable opposition, Sergeant Sanderson made his attack from close range. His aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and sustained further damage from the enemy fighters but, by skilful evasive tactics, this airman flew his aircraft to base safely. He has completed many operational sorties and has at all times shown great courage and determination.

1105805 Sergeant Leslie Holt TESTER, No. 39 Squadron.

In September, 1942, Sergeant Tester was wireless operator-air gunner in one of a force of aircraft which attacked 4 enemy merchant vessels escorted by 11 destroyers and a strong force of fighter aircraft. After the attack had been delivered on the convoy Sergeant Tester's aircraft was attacked by enemy fighters. This airman gave skilful directions to his pilot and, as a result of his accurate return fire, the enemy eventually withdrew. During the engagement Sergeant Tester was wounded by a cannon shell. Despite the pain he suffered he rendered valuable service with his wireless set during the return flight. He displayed exceptional courage and devotion to duty.

Air Ministry, 2nd October, 1942.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

Flg. Off. (prob.) E. MAYNE (46329) confmd. in appt. and to be Flt. Lt. (war subs.). 21st Aug. 1942.

Plt. Offs. (prob.) confmd. in appts. and to be Flg. Offs. (war subs.):—

L. A. CLARK (42590). 7th June 1942. (*Seny. 7th Dec. 1941.*)

J. A. BULCRAIG, D.F.M. (46089). 19th June 1942.

M. H. FARMER (46127). 27th June 1942.

A. A. ROLLO, A.F.C. (47003). 2nd July 1942.

D. B. HALCRO, D.F.C. (46128).

G. W. T. HOSSENT (46166)

B. BARDEGA, D.F.M. (46170). 12th July 1942.

E. STRACHAN (46220). 14th July 1942.

16th July 1942.

T. W. J. HATTON, D.F.M. (47412).

J. F. MARSHALL (46669).

S. J. ARNFIELD (46253). 26th July 1942.

C. CHRYSTALL (46538). 3rd Aug. 1942.

V. L. GOTHAM (46315). 5th Aug. 1942.

W. K. BRANCH (47703). 12th Aug. 1942.

14th Aug. 1942.

A. E. PALMER (46333).

N. H. WILSON (46335).

16th Aug. 1942.

R. G. BULLOCK (46346).

N. T. EVANS (46348).

J. D. L. HALL, D.F.M. (46401).

T. G. SMITH (46347).

J. E. TATE (46344).

C. P. TOWNLEY (46535). 28th Aug. 1942.

Gp. Cpts. (tempy.) granted the rank of Wg. Cdr. (war subs.) 1st Sept. 1942:—

J. WARBURTON.

J. D'A. KEARY.

H. W. PEARSON-ROGERS.

G. BARTHOLOMEW.

R. H. DONKIN, O.B.E.