

the cause of the saving of the lives of the surviving personnel of the other launch. Pilot Officer Bates has served at his present base for some six months and his keenness throughout has been an inspiration to officers and men alike and the example he set to his crew on this particular occasion merits the highest praise.

Acting Warrant Officer Joseph Graham Michael Davis, B.E.M. (567944), Royal Air Force.

Warrant Officer Davis was on duty in the armament section when he was advised that a Wellington aircraft was on fire on a landing ground nearby. Knowing that the aircraft had a number of high explosive and incendiary bombs on board he led a party of 4 to the scene with the intention of removing the bombs from the aircraft and rolling them away to safety. When he reached the Wellington he found the rear of the fuselage and the entire starboard wing on fire and realised that the fuel tanks or bombs might explode at any moment. Disregarding this grave danger, Warrant Officer Davis entered the aircraft and, after ascertaining that all bomb fuses were in the safe position, he connected the accumulators to the bomb release gear and jettisoned the entire load. He then left the aircraft and, with his 4 assistants, was ready to roll the bombs clear. He found that by this time the burning starboard wing was about to collapse; he accordingly ordered his men to stand away. Shortly afterwards the petrol tanks burst and the bombs exploded. The action of Warrant Officer Davis in causing the bombs to be on the ground when they exploded minimised the effect of the explosion. Had they detonated while inside the aircraft considerable damage might have been caused to other aircraft in the vicinity from burning fragments scattered by the explosions. This possible catastrophe was averted by the gallant action of Warrant Officer Davis.

Air Ministry, 15th December, 1942.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy:—

Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Wing Commander Charles Brian Fabris KINGCOME, D.F.C. (33319).

This officer has completed an extremely large number of sorties and has led the wing on numerous occasions. He has rendered outstanding service and has destroyed at least 11 and damaged many more enemy aircraft. Wing Commander Kingcome, who is a born leader, has at all times displayed high courage and devotion to duty.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader Harry Lennox Innes BROWN (37060), No. 616 Squadron.

Since the war began Squadron Leader Brown has taken part in a large number of operational sorties both in this country and in the Middle East. During the campaigns in Greece and Crete he performed excellent work and destroyed 4 enemy aircraft. Throughout his operational career he has displayed exceptional keenness and leadership.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Waldo Harry Bentley HILES (121330), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 218 Squadron.

In November, 1942, this officer captained a heavy bomber, detailed to attack Stutgart. At one point on the outward flight, Flight Lieutenant Hiles brought his aircraft down to 200 feet while his gunners attacked a goods train and put it out of action. He then flew on to his objective and bombed it. During the return journey, attacks were made on targets on the ground, including four separate attacks on goods trains and, in each instance, locomotives were set on fire; Flight Lieutenant Hiles also attacked an enemy aircraft on an airfield. This officer, who has completed a large number of sorties has invariably displayed outstanding skill and daring.

Flying Officer Kenneth MUNRO (Aus. 408168), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 10 Squadron.

As captain of aircraft this officer has displayed exceptional determination. He has participated in several sorties and, in spite of hazards and difficulties, has always attempted to complete his

allotted task. On a recent occasion, when returning from Genoa, he skilfully overcame a difficult situation and landed his aircraft safely. In November, during a flight to Turin one engine in his aircraft tailed whilst still some distance from the target. With admirable resolution, he continued his mission, bombed his target and eventually accomplished the return journey safely. Throughout his operational career, this officer has displayed indomitable courage and unswerving devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Frederick Briden McCULLOCH (62688), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 23 Squadron.

This officer has completed many sorties, involving attacks on enemy airfields, installations, factories and railway communications. He has invariably displayed great skill, keenness and resource.

Flying Officer Norman TAYLOR (101500), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

In November, 1942, this officer was the pilot of an aircraft launched by catapult from a ship in convoy in the Atlantic Ocean, to engage a Focke-Wulfe 200. Displaying great skill, Flying Officer Taylor intercepted and drove off the enemy aircraft before it could deliver an attack on any of the ships in the convoy. Despite adverse weather and in the face of strong opposing fire, he succeeded in destroying the enemy aircraft from close range. His courageous and skilful work earned the admiration of officers of the ships in the convoy who witnessed the operation.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer George Alexander TURNER (115613), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 107 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1132613 Sergeant Arthur LIDDLE, No. 107 Squadron.

One day in November, 1942, Flying Officer Turner and Sergeant Liddle were pilot and navigator respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack an industrial plant at Ijmuiden. Whilst over the target area, the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. A shell, bursting in the navigator's cockpit caused much damage and wounded Sergeant Liddle on the face and in the arms, chest and leg. Despite this, Flying Officer Turner pressed home his attack and Sergeant Liddle, disregarding his injuries, released his bombs on the objective. In the face of many difficulties Flying Officer Turner, gallantly supported by his navigator, flew the damaged aircraft back to an aerodrome in this country and landed safely. Both these members of aircraft crew have completed several sorties and have invariably displayed great courage and devotion to duty.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Can/R.87920 Flight Sergeant William Ernest EGRI, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 15 Squadron.

During a recent sortie this airman was the rear gunner of a heavy bomber which was attacked by two Junkers 88s. In the face of strong attacks, Flight Sergeant Egri maintained a steady and accurate fire and probably destroyed one of the attackers and caused the other to break off the engagement. His aircraft had sustained much damage and a fire broke out but Flight Sergeant Egri assisted in extinguishing the flames with his gloved hands and a fire extinguisher. His hands were severely burned but he returned to his post and, although his turret was unserviceable, he rotated it manually to keep watch. Throughout a most harassing experience this airman's courageous example was worthy of high praise.

Can/R.85430 Flight Sergeant Frank Fletcher HAMILTON, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 15 Squadron.

Flight Sergeant Hamilton, as captain of aircraft, flew in a recent sortie to Genoa. Shortly after crossing the Alps on the outward journey, one engine in his aircraft ceased to function. Although the aircraft was losing height, he flew on and released his bombs over the target. On the return journey he displayed considerable skill in manoeuvring his aircraft through various passes in the Alps, when unable to fly higher than 6000 feet. Throughout his many operational sorties, this officer has consistently shown great courage and determination to reach his objective regardless of the difficulties encountered.