

render assistance to the crew. The mid-upper gunner was trapped by the legs and was hanging head downwards in his turret which was on fire and surrounded by burning debris. Undeterred by the intense heat and the explosion of ammunition, Leading Aircraftman Hartle, using his own body to shield the injured gunner from the flames, extinguished the fire in the immediate vicinity of his head and succeeded in extricating him before further help arrived. Leading Aircraftman Hartle displayed complete disregard for his own safety and acted in accordance with the highest traditions of the Royal Air Force.

1020475 Aircraftman 1st Class John Henry McNeill, Royal Air Force.

One night in June, 1942, during an enemy attack, a bomb demolished a block of shops and houses and fire broke out owing to escaping gas. The flat asphalt roof was practically intact, lying across the wreckage, and cries for help were coming from underneath. Aircraftman McNeill was among the first to appear on the scene and, joining a volunteer rescue party, burrowed his way underneath the debris. After 3½ hours' work they succeeded in rescuing a number of persons, despite the constant danger from fire and falling debris and the risk of the roof collapsing completely. Throughout, Aircraftman McNeill showed courage, initiative and determination of a high order.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the publication of the name of the under-mentioned airman in the London Gazette as having received an expression of Commendation for brave conduct in connection with Civil Defence:—

*Commendation.*

1108197 Leading Aircraftman John Gray Carnie, Royal Air Force.

*Air Ministry, 29th January, 1943.*

**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 John Kenneth BUCHANAN, D.F.C. (39628), No. 272 Squadron.

This officer has participated in a very large number of sorties, involving bombing attacks against many countries occupied by the enemy. He arrived in Malta in November, 1942, and, within the next 14 days, led his squadron in 6 bombing attacks on enemy shipping. During these operations, Wing Commander Buchanan destroyed 6 enemy aircraft in combat. He is a magnificent leader whose great skill and fine fighting qualities have been of incalculable value.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Wing Commander Stanley Bernard GRANT, D.F.C. (33417).

In December, 1942, this officer flew the leading aircraft of a formation acting as escort to a force of fighter bombers. During the flight, 63 enemy air transports escorted by 5 twin-engined fighters were intercepted. Leaving the fighter bombers to attack the transports, Wing Commander Grant led his formation in an attack on the enemy fighters, all of which were shot down. This officer, who displayed great dash, destroyed 2 of them. He has participated in many sorties and, as a result of his outstanding work, much success has been achieved. He has at all times proved himself to be an inspiring and courageous leader.

Acting Squadron Leader Roland Prosper BEAMONT, D.F.C. (41819), No. 609 Squadron.

This officer is an exceptionally skilful and courageous leader. Recently, during a period of 5 weeks his squadron has damaged 22 locomotives and rolling stock and destroyed at least 4 Focke Wulf 190's; 12 of the locomotives were damaged by Squadron Leader Beamont. By his fine fighting qualities and great ability, this officer has contributed in a large measure to the success of the squadron he commands.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Flight Lieutenant Edward Lister IFOULD, D.F.C. (Aus.402278), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 109 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Squadron Leader Harry Emlyn BUFTON (33223), No. 109 Squadron.

One night in January, 1943, Flight Lieutenant Ifould and Squadron Leader Bufton were navigator and captain respectively of an aircraft detailed to lead a bombing force against a target in the Ruhr. Precise timing was essential and these officers, displaying skill of the highest order, achieved their purpose exactly as planned. The following night, Flight Lieutenant Ifould and Squadron Leader Bufton faultlessly completed another sortie in similar circumstances.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Flight Lieutenant Robert SEED (106646), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 249 Squadron.

This officer has participated in a large number of sorties, including many fighter bomber operations. One morning in November, 1942, he destroyed a Messerschmitt 109 off the coast of Sicily. During the afternoon he bombed the airfield at Gela, obtaining hits on a hangar. The next day despite heavy opposing fire he successfully attacked Comiso airfield. Flight Lieutenant Seed has made many low flying attacks on airfields and has destroyed at least 4 enemy aircraft on the ground. He is a skilful and determined pilot, whose courageous example has been worthy of high praise.

Flying Officer Kervin Charles BEETON (Aus.407162), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 10 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Flying Officer Robert George BOWLEY (Aus.416015), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 10 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

In January, 1943, Flying Officers Beeton and Bowley were captain and navigator of a Sunderland aircraft which located an enemy merchant ship attempting to evade the blockade. Despite extremely adverse weather, Flying Officer Beeton displayed outstanding determination and maintained patrol over the area until one of our naval vessels arrived and engaged the enemy vessel. On reaching a base in this country, Flying Officer Beeton effected a masterly emergency landing in very difficult circumstances. Throughout Flying Officer Bowley displayed brilliant navigation which contributed materially to the success of the operation. Both these officers have always displayed courage and devotion to duty of a high order.

Flying Officer Arthur HODGSON (119292), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 502 Squadron.

In January, 1943, this officer captained an aircraft detailed for a shipping reconnaissance. In spite of extremely adverse weather he succeeded in locating an enemy merchant ship attempting to run the blockade. He made several attacking runs over the ship but visibility was so poor that he was unable to complete his attack. Nevertheless, he flew over the objective for an hour and a quarter, shadowing it most effectively. He eventually landed his aircraft at base with fuel sufficient for only a further 15 minutes flying. Throughout, this officer displayed great courage, persistence and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Allan William Russell TRIGGS, M.B.E. (Aus.400500), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 172 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Colin BADHAM (Aus.403467), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 172 Squadron.

One night in October, 1942, Flying Officer Triggs and Pilot Officer Badham were pilot and navigator respectively of an aircraft which attacked successfully a U-boat in the Bay of Biscay. In the same area, one night in January, 1943, they again executed a determined attack, in bad weather, on another enemy submarine. A few nights later, Flying Officer Triggs displayed fine airmanship when, during an anti-submarine patrol, a propeller and reduction gear broke adrift and caused the entire engine to fall into the sea. Despite this, he flew the aircraft back to this country and landed it safely. Both these officers have always displayed courage and ability of a high standard.

Pilot Officer Alfred Francis FOSTER (126581), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 161 Squadron.

This officer has completed numerous sorties and has acted as captain of aircraft on 30 occasions. He has at all times displayed exceptional deter-