

Flying Officer Douglas Haig GREAVES (113989), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 255 Squadron.

Warrant Officer Frederic Mitton ROBBINS (1161497), No. 255 Squadron.

In operations in North Africa, Flying Officer Greaves and Warrant Officer Robbins have flown together as pilot and observer of aircraft respectively. They have co-operated in the destruction of 5 enemy aircraft. In one combat, Flying Officer Greaves opened fire from extremely close range, causing the enemy aircraft to explode and disintegrate in the air. The outside of his own aircraft was smothered in oil, blown from the enemy's tanks by the force of the explosion, making it impossible to see through the windscreen. In spite of this Flying Officer Greaves flew the aircraft to an airfield where he succeeded in cleaning the windscreen sufficiently to enable him to effect a landing. Flying Officer Greaves and Warrant Officer Robbins have displayed outstanding skill, high courage and excellent teamwork.

Pilot Officer William Orson RUBLEE (Can/J.16205), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 150 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Rublee has completed 34 operational sorties against targets in Germany, Italy and Tunisia, always pressing home his attacks with great determination. On one occasion when over Sicily his aircraft was repeatedly hit. A petrol tank caught fire and the hydraulic system was put out of action. After the fire had been extinguished Pilot Officer Rublee flew the aircraft back to base and made a successful crash landing. This officer's fine record of constant devotion to duty is worthy of the highest praise.

Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (flying).

1161447 Flight Sergeant (now Pilot Officer) Charles Clayton CORDER, No. 248 Squadron.

This airman has participated in 71 operational missions, including sorties off the Norwegian coast, over the Mediterranean and over the Bay of Biscay. He has displayed great navigational skill and perfect teamwork which have made him a valuable member of aircraft crew. On one occasion, in August 1942, he skilfully located a dinghy adrift in the Mediterranean and the crew were later rescued. In March, 1943, he was the navigator of one of a section of Beaufighters patrolling over the Bay of Biscay. During the operation his aircraft sustained severe damage in an encounter with a Junkers 88, which was shot down. The situation appeared hopeless but, as the intercommunication system was un-serviceable, Flight Sergeant Corder crawled through to the cockpit where he gave his pilot a course for base. Returning to his seat he attempted to signal their plight to other aircraft of the formation but his efforts were unavailing. In the meantime, the pilot was having considerable difficulty in controlling the aircraft so Flight Sergeant Corder once more crawled to the cockpit to assist. The port engine failed and the possibility of flying to this country seemed remote. Nevertheless, Flight Sergeant Corder calmly continued his duties, repairing the intercommunication, obtaining bearings and doing everything within his power to assist his pilot. The aircraft, which was extremely difficult to control, was now being flown almost at sea level. When nearing the English coast the second engine caught fire while some oil in the cockpit also caught alight. Just as the pilot had decided that the damaged aircraft should be abandoned the English coast was sighted, so he struggled on. Meanwhile, Flight Sergeant Corder coolly sent out distress signals and fired Verey cartridges intermittently to attract the attention of people on shore. He guided the pilot to the lowest part of a cliff which was crossed safely and a crash-landing effected on an airfield. On impact the aircraft burst into flames but both Flight Sergeant Corder and his pilot were able to jump clear. In the face of an appalling situation, this airman displayed skill and courage in keeping with the highest traditions of the Royal Air Force.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1256561 Flight Sergeant William Frederick BUNTING, No. 150 Squadron.

Flight Sergeant Bunting has completed 40 operational sorties. At all times he has displayed the utmost devotion to duty and by his

efficiency as bomb aimer and gunner has fully contributed to the successful results attained by his crew.

Can/R.55311 Flight Sergeant Charles Edward DELANY, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 142 Squadron.

This airman has completed 31 operational sorties as a rear gunner and by his steady and skilful method of guiding his pilot through heavy ground defences has contributed in no small measure to the successes achieved. One night in May, 1942, Flight Sergeant Delany was a member of a crew detailed to attack Stuttgart. Whilst over the target area the bomber was attacked by an enemy night fighter. Flight Sergeant Delany drove off the first attack and directed his pilot in the subsequent evasive tactics, which resulted in the engagement being broken off, and enabled the mission to be successfully completed.

639767 Flight Sergeant Arthur DRABBLE, No. 150 Squadron.

This airman has completed many operational missions. Invariably he has displayed the utmost keenness while his technical skill as wireless operator has materially contributed to the many successes achieved by his crew.

Can/R.103566 Sergeant Lionel Wollaston MATHEWS, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 150 Squadron.

This airman has completed 31 operational sorties over Germany, Italy and Tunisia. He has invariably pressed home his attacks with courage and determination and has obtained many excellent photographs. On one occasion when taking part in an operation over Sicily, his aircraft sustained damage and his rear gunner received wounds which proved fatal. Sergeant Mathews brought his damaged aircraft safely back, landing with his wounded comrade at an aerodrome where hospital attention was available.

Air Ministry, 13th April, 1943.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

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

Distinguished Service Order.

Wing Commander Brian Reginald WALKER (Aus. 94).

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader Ross Aubrey LITTLE (Aus. 491).
Flight Lieutenant Roland Frederick UREN (Aus. 535).

Flying Officer John Percival MAGUIRE (Aus. 3493).
Flying Officer Jack Tipton SANDFORD (Aus. 400602).
Flying Officer Alexander Henry SPOONER (Aus. 3490).

Pilot Officer Colin Alexander CAMPBELL (Aus. 40623).

Air Ministry, 13th April, 1943.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

To be Plt. Offs. on prob. (emergency):—

Wt. Offs.

580662 John Roy LAKE (51282). 30th Oct. 1942.

9th Nov. 1942.

563488 Allan Ainslie STORAR (51293).

564638 Henry William GILL (51298).

581085 David Trevor CAVE (51290). 12th Jan. 1943.

581331 William Henry Leslie GRANT, A.F.M. (51515). 16th Jan. 1943.

581452 Stanley HAUXWELL (51297). 12th Feb. 1943.

Flt. Sgts.

623538 George John GRAYLAND (51289). 10th Oct. 1942.

618442 Ian Alister Hardy LINKLATER, D.F.M. (51295). 20th Dec. 1942.

654213 Charles Enoch HAMSHIRE (51213). 6th Jan. 1943.

521917 George Swan Anderson DOUGLAS (51284). 21st Jan. 1943.

619390 John Ireland Pearson FORD (51286). 22nd Jan. 1943.

630117 Edward HONE (51154). 25th Jan. 1943.

552458 David George EVERSON, D.F.M. (51287). 8th Feb. 1943.