



SUPPLEMENT

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*Air Ministry, 20th April, 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 Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Colin George MILSON (Aus. 402379), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 39 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in attacks on shipping in the Mediterranean and mine-laying operations off the North African coast. In September, 1942, he led a formation of aircraft in an attack on a convoy of 4 merchant vessels escorted by 11 destroyers and a strong force of fighter aircraft. In spite of the formidable opposition the attack was pressed home with vigour, one vessel being destroyed and another one damaged; in addition Squadron Leader Milson's gunner shot down a Macchi 200. In March, 1943, this officer led his flight in an attack on a tanker which was escorted by 3 destroyers and covered by a force of fighters. Despite this, an attack was made from close range. Several hits were obtained on the tanker, causing its destruction. Squadron Leader Milson displayed great skill and leadership throughout the operation, contributing materially to the success achieved. He has invariably displayed courage and determination.

Flight Lieutenant Anthony Peter Questil BLUETT (43539), No. 6 Squadron.

In recent operations in Tunisia, this officer has flown on several sorties, involving low level attacks on enemy armoured fighting vehicles. In March, 1943, he led a formation of aircraft in an attack on enemy forces which threatened a position at Ksar Rhilane, inflicting much loss and causing the enemy to abandon their plans. Some days later, he led a formation of aircraft in an attack on a concentration of tanks near El Hamma. During the action his aircraft was severely damaged but he successfully crash-landed it in our own lines. The next day, and again two days later, Flight Lieutenant Bluett flew on successful operations in the same area. In one of these latter actions his aircraft was badly damaged but he disabled 2 tanks before breaking off the engagement, afterwards flying the damaged aircraft to base where he made a perfect landing. This officer has displayed great courage, skill and resource.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Alan Frederick AVANT (Can./J. 10503), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 115 Squadron.

One night in March, 1943, this officer captained an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin. Whilst over the city his aircraft was held in searchlights

and subjected to intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire. The bomber was repeatedly hit and one of its engines was damaged. Undeterred, Flight Lieutenant Avant executed his bombing run exactly as planned, releasing his bombs with precision. By skilful evading tactics he then succeeded in piloting the bomber out of a perilous situation although, in so doing, it sustained further damage and lost some height. Almost as course was set for the homeward flight the damaged engine burst into flames. Efforts to extinguish the fire were successful and displaying fine airmanship, this captain flew the damaged bomber to an airfield in this country. Whilst over the airfield, one of the port engines became defective but Flight Lieutenant Avant effected a masterly landing with 2 engines unserviceable. This officer has at all times displayed high courage and outstanding determination in the face of the enemy.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Malcolm George BROWN (Can./J. 8771), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 683 Squadron.

This officer has made many flights over enemy positions in the Western Desert, and has photographed concentrations of armoured vehicles, the disposition of troops and various defensive positions in spite of fighter opposition. In an operation in March, 1943, in bad weather, he obtained photographs of Taranto from below 500 feet although he was pursued by enemy fighters. This officer has displayed skill, courage and determination of a high order.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Joseph Ernest MORPHETT (Aus. 407533), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 60 Squadron.

This officer has completed 60 operational flights. He is an inspiring leader, displaying skill and devotion to duty of a high order. In February, 1943, he piloted one of a formation of bombers detailed for a sortie, involving a flight over hilly terrain and jungle area in Burma. During the flight, whilst many miles from the target, one engine of his aircraft failed, causing him to lose formation. Despite this, Flight Lieutenant Morphett continued his mission. Later, he succeeded in re-starting the defective engine, regaining formation and bombing his objective before the engine again failed. Displaying great skill he flew the aircraft to base.

Acting Flight Lieutenant William John STOREY (Aus. 400508), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 135 Squadron.

In March, 1943, this officer led his formation in an attack on 10 enemy fighters. In the combat 2 enemy aircraft were shot down, one of them by Flight Lieutenant Storey. In another engagement, later in the day over the same area, he destroyed 2 more enemy aircraft. He has displayed skilful leadership and high courage.