

Acting Flight Lieutenant Lighton VERDON-ROE (119171), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 156 Squadron.

This officer has completed 23 operational missions. One night in March, 1943, he captained an aircraft detailed to attack Nuremberg. During the take-off one of the starboard engines lost power but Flight Lieutenant Verdon-Roe succeeded in gaining height and, although the engine was barely functioning, he continued to the target which he bombed and photographed. This officer, who has participated in attacks on various targets in Germany and Italy, has invariably displayed great courage and determination to achieve success.

Flying Officer Eric Roger McDOWALL (47887), No. 37 Squadron.

This officer has completed 34 sorties. Objectives in Sicily, Crete, Cyrenaica, Tripolitania and Tunisia have been targets for his activities. He has invariably completed his allotted task with a thoroughness and tenacity of purpose which have set a fine example. One night in February, 1943, he was detailed to illuminate an airfield preliminary to an attack by following aircraft. Whilst searching for the target his aircraft was attacked by an enemy fighter but, displaying great skill, Flying Officer McDowall evaded the attacker and later released his flares over the correct target, which was then successfully bombed as planned.

Flying Officer Laurie Evan PHILPOTTS (Can/J.15527), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 683 Squadron.

This officer has made many flights over Sicily and Southern Italy. Although attacked on numerous occasions by fighter aircraft he has always continued his mission. On a recent occasion, as the result of an accurate report by this officer, a submarine was enabled to damage a new Italian cruiser. Flying Officer Philpotts has displayed outstanding keenness and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer John Charles William WALTER (112394), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 6 Squadron.

In operations in the Western Desert, including the battle of El Alemein, this officer participated in 10 sorties, involving low flying attacks on enemy fighting vehicles. More recently, in Tunisia, he has executed 2 further sorties of a similar nature. On both occasions his aircraft was severely damaged by anti-aircraft fire. He flew his aircraft safely to base the first time, but on the second occasion, he was forced to land in a forward area. Flying Officer Walter has displayed great courage and determination throughout.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1323273 Sergeant Keith DURBIDGE, No. 683 Squadron.

This airman has completed many missions. He has rendered excellent service, obtaining much valuable information often in the face of opposition both from enemy aircraft and ground defences. He has displayed skill, courage and determination of a high order.

Can/R.88221 Sergeant Lucien Irving THOMAS, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 405 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This airman, who has taken part in 24 operational missions, is an air gunner of high merit. On several occasions, when his aircraft has been attacked by enemy fighters, his accurate shooting has driven them off. In September, 1942, he shot down 1 of 3 Junkers 88s which attempted to attack his aircraft. One night in March, 1943, during an operation against Duisburg, his aircraft was intercepted by an enemy fighter which attempted to attack from close range. Coolly and skilfully, Sergeant Thomas delivered telling bursts of fire, causing the attacker to break away with its engine on fire. By his great skill, this airman has contributed materially to the safe return of his aircraft on several occasions.

*Air Ministry, 20th April, 1943.*

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards:—

*Bar to Distinguished Service Order.*

Acting Wing Commander Geoffrey Leonard CHESHIRE, D.S.O., D.F.C. (72021), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 76 Squadron.

*Distinguished Service Order.*

Group Captain Edward George OLSON, Royal New Zealand Air Force.

Wing Commander Owen Aubrey MORRIS (32052), No. 218 Squadron.

Acting Wing Commander Arthur Leonard George HUBBARD, D.F.C. (40050).

Acting Squadron Leader Everett Large BAUDOUX, D.F.C. (42095), No. 233 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader William Michael DIXON, D.F.C. (86390), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 76 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Edward Richard LACEY (134518), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 90 Squadron.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Wing Commander Michael James Beaumont YOUNG, D.F.C. (39152), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 540 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader William Inglis DEAS, D.F.C. (87060), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 61 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader John Lionel MARTIN, D.F.C. (106968), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Acting Squadron Leader Charles Bruce MORTON, D.F.C. (109912), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 12 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Cyril Keith SILCOCK, D.F.C. (N.Z.411461), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 44 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Wing Commander Maynard Denis CRICHTON-BIGGIE (29231), No. 83 Squadron.

Squadron Leader George Howard David EVANS (33309), No. 489 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader William Ezekiel ALLISON (115784), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 424 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Frederick Albert GREEN (41528), No. 109 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Anthony Evan HILDITCH (87398), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 53 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader David Sinclair JACOBS (Can/C.1629), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 420 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Garnet Franklin JACOBSEN (Can/J.3500), Royal Canadian Air Force.

Acting Squadron Leader Leslie Herbert KAY (78866), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Acting Squadron Leader Thomas Cairns Peattie MAXWELL (76462), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 53 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Herbert Colin MITCHELL (106526), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 156 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Robert Alexander NORMAN (Aus.400102), Royal Australian Air Force.

Acting Squadron Leader John Henry SEARBY (43128), No. 106 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Joseph Alexander TEMPERLEY (42659), No. 103 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Geoffrey Harland WOMERSLEY, D.S.O. (43696), No. 156 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Edward Bertram BROOKS (88665), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 502 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Richard Cleminson CUSSONS (85660), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 541 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant George Ronald HAY (83258), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 51 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Edward Dewar Lyell LEE (43102), No. 543 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant George Holmes MELVILLE-JACKSON (80842), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 248 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Henry Robert PUPLETT (62680), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Flight Lieutenant Edward Albert STONEY (84906), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 50 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant William Joseph WINTER (78759), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 214 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Jerrold Walton BELL (Can/J.7020), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 425 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Robert Henry George BOOSEY (110552), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 408 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.