

the damaged aircraft to base. This officer who has destroyed 2 enemy aircraft has set a praiseworthy example.

Flying Officer Kenneth John LOVELESS (123587), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 104 Squadron.

During an operational flight one night in April, 1943, this officer displayed courage and skill of a high order. When nearing the target area 1 of the engines of his aircraft failed but, undeterred, he flew on and bombed his objective accurately. Displaying superb airmanship he flew the damaged aircraft more than 250 miles over the sea to reach friendly territory and make a safe landing at an emergency airfield. By his skill and determination, this officer was responsible for the safe return of the aircraft and its crew.

Pilot Officer John Henry Low (N.Z.404611), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 39 Squadron.

As wireless operator/air gunner this officer has flown on 30 sorties, 23 of them from Malta. In April, 1943, he was a member of the crew of 1 of a formation of aircraft which attacked a convoy of 4 merchant ships escorted by 11 destroyers and fighter aircraft. During the run-in his aircraft was attacked by 3 Italian fighters but skilful return fire by Pilot Officer Low frustrated the attackers, thus enabling his pilot to successfully attack 1 of the merchant vessels. On 2 previous occasions, during air attacks on enemy convoys, his excellent work has contributed materially to the successes achieved. His example of courage and devotion to duty has proved most inspiring.

Pilot Officer Geoffrey Winston WOODWARD (139497), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 51 Squadron.

One night in April, 1943, this officer was the captain of a bomber detailed to attack Stettin. On the outward flight, whilst still a considerable distance from the target, 1 of the engines failed. Despite this, Pilot Officer Woodward continued his flight to the target which he ultimately bombed successfully. Displaying superb airmanship he flew the bomber to base on 3 engines and effected a perfect landing. By his great skill, courage and dogged determination, this officer set a most inspiring example.

Warrant Officer Anthony John EDGAR (957468), No. 89 Squadron.

Warrant Officer Edgar has an excellent operational record. He took part in many sorties whilst based in the United Kingdom before proceeding to the Middle East where he has fought in Libya, Malta, and Tripolitania. He is an observer of great skill and has taken part in the destruction of 6 enemy aircraft. Warrant Officer Edgar has set a commendable example.

Warrant Officer Harold VERTICAN (565380), No. 462 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Warrant Officer Vertican has completed 40 sorties, involving attacks on targets in Greece, Crete and North Africa. He is a keen and skilful pilot whose determination to achieve success has set a fine example. On 1 occasion he captained an aircraft detailed to attack Leros. The objective was successfully bombed but, whilst still over the target area, 1 engine of his aircraft became unservicable. Despite this, he flew the bomber back to base. Owing to the presence of thick fog, which covered a wide area, Warrant Officer Vertican was unable to make a landing. Undeterred, he flew on searching for another landing ground. The situation became serious and all moveable equipment was jettisoned to assist in maintaining height. Warrant Officer Vertican eventually made a landing after a flight of more than 700 miles with 1 of the aircraft's 2 engines out of action. He displayed great courage and superb airmanship in very trying circumstances.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Can/R.75287 Flight Sergeant Walter William DRECHSLER, Royal Canadian Air Force No. 150 Squadron.

In most hazardous circumstances this airman displayed courage and fortitude worthy of the highest praise during air operations.

Aus.406247 Flight Sergeant Edward Charles House, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 450 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

This airman has taken part in many attacks on enemy troop concentrations and transport, bombing and machine-gunning them from a low level.

During a recent sortie, an aircraft of the formation in which Flight Sergeant House was flying was badly damaged by anti-aircraft fire. Displaying great determination he escorted the damaged aircraft until its pilot was compelled to make a crash-landing. By attacking everything in the vicinity of the crashed aircraft with machine gun fire, Flight Sergeant House proved of great assistance to his comrade who was thus enabled to dash to our lines in safety. This airman has displayed great courage and a fine fighting spirit.

778881 Sergeant Gustav OLSSON, No. 162 Squadron.

This airman has completed 27 sorties. One night in March, 1943, he was the front gunner of an aircraft engaged on an operational flight off the Italian coast. During the operation the aircraft was attacked by an enemy aircraft and the rear gunner was fatally injured. Sergeant Olsson made his way to the rear but was unable to extricate the rear gunner from the turret which had been rendered unservicable. He succeeded in moving his comrade's body a little to one side, however, and thus was able to observe and report the movements of 3 hostile aircraft flying in to attack. His commentary enabled the pilot to take effective evading action. Sergeant Olsson's cool and courageous conduct contributed materially to the safe return of the aircraft.

Aus.416288 Sergeant James Chadd RUDD, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 78 Squadron.

One night in April, 1943, this airman captained an aircraft detailed to attack Stettin. On the outward flight, some 200 miles from the target, 1 engine of his aircraft was damaged by anti-aircraft fire and became unservicable. In spite of this, Sergeant Rudd flew on to the objective bombed it successfully and flew the aircraft back to base. On this, his first operational flight over enemy territory, Sergeant Rudd displayed skill, tenacity and devotion to duty worthy of great praise.

Air Ministry, 14th May, 1943.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

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

Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Wing Commander Alfred Howard SMYTHE, D.F.C., A.F.C. (37563), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 214 Squadron.

Squadron Leader David William DONALDSON, D.F.C. (70185), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 156 Squadron.

Acting Squadron-Leader John Kemp Michael COOKE, D.F.C. (42802), No. 83 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Joseph Neville FORREST, D.F.C. (77913), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 83 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader John HURRY, D.F.C. (42839), No. 83 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Keith Frederick THIELE, D.F.C. (N.Z.40496), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 467 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Robert Frederick NODEN, D.F.M. (125318), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 12 Squadron.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader George William CURRY, D.F.C. (86389), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 57 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader Gordon Stanley FRY (39818), No. 9 Squadron.

Squadron Leader Kenneth John McDONALD (39097), No. 78 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Charles Frederick ANDREW (115930), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 35 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Peter Livingstone CHILTON, A.F.C. (33459), No. 115 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Douglas Aubrey CRACKNELL (72985), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 49 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Cyril Montague EVERSON (75692), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 156 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Edmund Pius Mary FERNBANK (43826), No. 192 Squadron.