

and then set out again as the navigator of an aircraft of the air/sea rescue service in an endeavour to find his comrade. During an operational flight one day in April, 1943, Flying Officer Harvey observed the crew of a bomber afloat in their dinghy. As the result of the information supplied by him, the crew were subsequently picked up. The same afternoon he took part in a successful attack on a ship off Brest. Flying Officer Harvey has invariably displayed skill and courage of a high order.

Flying Officer Derick Rolfe MARTIN (79268), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 276 Squadron.

In air/sea rescue operations, this officer has displayed great gallantry and skill. This was well illustrated on one occasion when he brought his aircraft down on to a rough sea at night, by the aid of flares, and picked up a pilot who had been adrift in his dinghy for nearly 8 days. Three days earlier, he picked up 3 airmen who were adrift in the sea. Flying Officer Martin has displayed great keenness and unflagging devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Peter Edward RAW (119259), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 609 Squadron.

This officer has achieved excellent results in attacks on rail installations in Northern France and Belgium, immobilizing 17 locomotives. Recently, he took part in 2 attacks on enemy shipping, obtaining good results. This officer has displayed great courage and tenacity, pressing home his attacks with vigour.

Pilot Officer George Cecil CREW (128066), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 90 Squadron.

One night in April, 1943, this officer captained an aircraft detailed to attack Rostock. On the outward flight his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. Although some of the instruments were shot away and other damage was sustained, Pilot Officer Crew flew on to his target, 150 miles distant, and bombed it successfully, afterwards flying the damaged bomber back to this country. This officer displayed great determination and devotion to duty throughout.

Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (Flying).

Can/R.107665 Sergeant Leonard Franklin WILLIAMSON, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 428 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

In April, 1943, this airman was pilot and captain of an aircraft detailed to attack Duisburg. Whilst over the target area the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. The bomber commenced to vibrate violently, while the rudder bar swung loosely. Despite this, Sergeant Williamson continued his run-up and successfully bombed the target. The situation became critical and Sergeant Williamson gave orders to prepare to abandon aircraft. As no answer was received from the rear gunner, the navigator went to investigate and found that the rear turret had been blown away. The rudder was very badly damaged and all the fuselage to the rear of the beam gun position was stripped of fabric. The hydraulic system was out of action, causing the undercarriage to sag and the bomb doors to open. In spite of this, Sergeant Williamson kept the seriously damaged bomber headed for home and eventually reached an airfield where he effected a landing. In most hazardous circumstances this airman displayed fortitude and courage of a high degree.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

N.Z.39197 Flight Sergeant Thomas Benson BLACKBURN, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 141 Squadron.

As navigator, this airman has displayed exceptional skill, contributing in a large measure to the success of numerous sorties on which he has flown. In April, 1943, he was the observer of the leading aircraft of a section which successfully attacked an enemy convoy. By his accurate navigation, Flight Sergeant Blackburn played a large part in the success achieved. This airman has set a praiseworthy example.

1195282 Flight Sergeant Wilson John CEYBIRD, No. 143 Squadron.

In May, 1943, Flight Sergeant Ceybird piloted an aircraft engaged on escort duties during a reconnaissance flight off the Norwegian coast. Enemy fighters attempted to intercept and, in the ensuing engagement, Flight Sergeant Ceybird fought off 2 enemy aircraft with great daring. His observer was killed during the action but Flight Sergeant Ceybird, although deprived of navigational assistance, flew his aircraft more than

300 miles over the sea to reach an airfield in this country. He displayed courage and determination of a high order.

1377332 Flight Sergeant Jack Edward COPE, No. 115 Squadron.

In most hazardous circumstances, during an operational flight, this airman displayed conduct in keeping with the highest traditions of the Royal Air Force.

918196 Sergeant Ronald Henry WRIGHT, No. 149 Squadron.

One night in March, 1943, this airman was the flight engineer of an aircraft detailed to attack Nuremberg. Shortly after crossing the enemy coast, on the outward flight, the aircraft was attacked by an enemy fighter. The fuselage caught fire amidships. As the pilot commenced to take evading action, 2 of the bomber's engines failed and the aircraft temporarily went out of control. Petrol was pouring into the fuselage but Sergeant Wright, who had been hurled against the bulkhead door, displayed great promptitude and struggled to the petrol cocks, taking measures to counteract the danger. The pilot regained control of the aircraft and succeeded in re-starting 1 of the faulty engines. Thereupon, Sergeant Wright turned his attention to the fire in the fuselage, putting out the flames with an extinguisher. By his promptitude and resource, this airman contributed materially to the safe return of the aircraft.

Air Ministry, 18th May, 1943.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

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

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader George Glen AVIS (39774), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 57 Squadron.

Squadron Leader Leonard Joseph BIRCHALL (Can/C.775), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 413 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Donald Kenneth ALLPORT (119516), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 35 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Leslie William Dudley FAGAN (115153), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 10 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Stanley Roy WHIPPLE (68741), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 102 Squadron.

Flying Officer Frank Eric ALDER (107921), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 78 Squadron.

Flying Officer Peter Bruce BALLANTYNE (112532), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 97 Squadron.

Flying Officer James Norman CATTY (112757), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 49 Squadron.

Flying Officer John Percival CREBBIN (48603), No. 9 Squadron.

Flying Officer Ronald FELL (111786), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 10 Squadron.

Flying Officer Jacob Maurice GRANT (127489), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 49 Squadron.

Flying Officer David William GRIFFITHS (130801), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 466 (R.A.A.F.), Squadron.

Flying Officer John Douglas JOHNSTON (Can/J.15430), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 78 Squadron.

Flying Officer Walter Bonar KIRKWOOD-HACKETT (108036), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 97 Squadron.

Flying Officer Frederick George Gilbert LUSH (116914), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 97 Squadron.

Flying Officer Brian MOORHEAD (109518), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 9 Squadron.

Flying Officer Coleman Douglas PERKINS (Can/J.15979), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 9 Squadron.

Flying Officer Arthur Thompson SPENCER (121734), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 78 Squadron.

Flying Officer Theodore TRILSBECK (Can/J.10163), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 97 Squadron.

Flying Officer Wilfred WATTS (111585), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 49 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Frederick Charles BELL (50971), No. 49 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Leslie Houlton EDWARDS (80439), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 44 Squadron.