

Acting Squadron Leader Francis MURPHY (N.Z.411928), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 486 (N.Z.) Squadron.

This officer is a skilful pilot. He has taken part in many determined attacks on shipping while, in air combat, he has destroyed 4 enemy aircraft. His successes have been worthily earned.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Moire Alphonse Jean PIERRE (133525), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 158 Squadron.

In air operations, this officer displayed courage and fortitude in keeping with the highest traditions of the Royal Air Force.

Flying Officer Thomas ARCHIBALD (Aus.412606), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 77 Squadron.

One night in April, 1943, this officer captained an aircraft which attacked Essen. Whilst over the target area the aircraft was repeatedly hit by fire from the ground defences, and one engine was put out of action. It was then discovered that one bomb had failed to release. Displaying great determination, Flying Officer Archibald made a second run over the target and released the bomb successfully. His aircraft sustained much damage but he flew it back to base with one engine un-serviceable. This officer displayed great courage and outstanding devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Frank Ernest RYMILLS, D.F.M. (115338), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 161 Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of operations, some of them of a very hazardous nature. He is a courageous and skilful pilot whose example has won the confidence of all with whom he has flown. He has displayed great determination and his successes have been worthily earned.

Flying Officer John Garn WRIGHT (Can/J.7233), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 112 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in a large number of sorties, including numerous fighter bomber attacks against enemy airfields and mechanised transport. In air combat he has destroyed at least 3 enemy aircraft. Flying Officer Wright has displayed great keenness, skill and determination.

Pilot Officer Peter John Oswald BUCK (N.Z.413377), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 75 (N.Z.) Squadron.

Pilot Officer John Henry SYMONS (Can/J.16507), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 75 (N.Z.) Squadron.

One night in April, 1943, Pilot Officers Buck and Symons were pilot and navigator respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Duisburg. Whilst over the target area, the aircraft was attacked by an enemy fighter and sustained much damage. The rear gunner was mortally wounded, while Pilot Officer Symons was wounded in the hand. Pilot Officer Buck succeeded in evading the attacker and set course for base. On the return flight, the damaged bomber became difficult to control and, when 1 of the engines failed, the aircraft began to lose height. All moveable equipment was jettisoned and, height being maintained, Pilot Officer Buck flew the aircraft to base where he effected a perfect crash-landing. During the return flight, Pilot Officer Symons, in spite of his painful injury, did all within his power to help his pilot, obtaining a number of fixes which proved of great assistance. In a most difficult situation, these officers displayed courage, skill and determination of a high order.

Pilot Officer Frank Norman PLUM (143236), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 115 Squadron.

This officer has completed 24 sorties and has invariably displayed great determination to complete his tasks successfully. In April, 1943, he piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Duisburg. Shortly after the take-off, engine trouble developed. Despite this, Pilot Officer Plum continued his flight to the target which he bombed successfully, afterwards flying the aircraft safely to base. He displayed great skill and resolution throughout.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant Arthur Victor DUFFILL (86398), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 487 (N.Z.) Squadron.

Flying Officer Frederick John STARKIE (118630), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 487 (N.Z.) Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1290249 Sergeant Alan William TURNBULL, No. 487 (N.Z.) Squadron.

1461821 Sergeant Lawrence Henry NEILL, No. 487 (N.Z.) Squadron.

Early in May, 1943, Flight Lieutenant Duffill, Flying Officer Starkie and Sergeants Turnbull and Neill, were pilot, navigator, wireless operator/air gunner and air gunner respectively of one of a formation of aircraft detailed to attack a target in Holland. Whilst crossing the enemy coast the formation was intercepted by a large force of enemy fighters. In the combats which followed, Sergeant Turnbull coolly gave a commentary on the attacker's movements and later manned a position until he was seriously wounded. Sergeant Neill used his guns effectively but was wounded in the legs by the enemy's fire, which also caused a fire to break out in the rear of the fuselage. Flying Officer Starkie, acting with great promptitude, quickly extinguished the flames. This accomplished, he tended his wounded comrade, Sergeant Turnbull, and rendered efficient first aid after carrying him across a gaping hole, which had been torn in the fuselage. Meanwhile, Flight Lieutenant Duffill was taking skilful evading action, while Sergeant Neill despite his injuries continued to engage the enemy until all attacks ceased. Flight Lieutenant Duffill, displaying superb airmanship, eventually flew the badly damaged bomber to base. In extremely harassing circumstances, these members of aircraft crew displayed courage, fortitude and determination of a high order.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flying Officer Charles Beatty ANDERSON (Aus.416735), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 460 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

Aus. 415079 Sergeant Herbert Leonard FUHRMAN, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 460 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

One night in April, 1943, Flying Officer Anderson and Sergeant Fuhrman were navigator and pilot respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Stettin. Whilst over the Baltic Sea, the aircraft was repeatedly hit by fire from an armed ship. One engine was put out of action, the tail unit was damaged, restricting practically all rudder movements, while a shell penetrated the bomb bay, exploding amongst the incendiaries. Flying Officer Anderson was wounded in the thigh and buttock by splinters of shrapnel which entered his cabin. The situation was perilous but Sergeant Fuhrman decided to attempt to fly the damaged bomber home. Displaying superb airmanship and great endurance he eventually accomplished his purpose, flying the damaged bomber to an airfield in this country where he effected a masterly landing before collapsing at the controls. During the return flight, Flying Officer Anderson, despite his injuries, refused to leave his post and continued his navigational duties, rendering great assistance to his pilot. Both these members of the crew displayed exceptional courage, skill and fortitude in the face of a trying ordeal.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

Can/R.98109 Flight Sergeant Francis Joseph HIGGINS, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 427 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Flight Sergeant Higgins piloted an aircraft detailed to attack a target in S.W. Germany one night in April, 1943. Shortly after bombing the target the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. Much damage was sustained. In difficult circumstances, Flight Sergeant Higgins flew the aircraft to an air field in this country, where he effected a successful crash-landing. He displayed great courage and determination.

Can/R.56057 Sergeant Joseph Pierre Gaston BLANCHET, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 35 Squadron.

633143 Sergeant Ronald Horace David WILSON, No. 35 Squadron.

These airmen have displayed high qualities of courage and fortitude in air operations. Their exemplary conduct has been worthy of the highest praise.