

Acting Flight Lieutenant David John SHANNON, D.F.C. (Aus. 407729), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 617 Squadron.
Pilot Officer Leslie Gordon KNIGHT (Aus. 401449), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 617 Squadron.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Robert Claude HAY, D.F.C. (Aus. 407071), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 617 Squadron.
Acting Flight Lieutenant Robert Edward George HUTCHISON, D.F.C. (120854), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 617 Squadron.
Acting Flight Lieutenant Jack Frederick LEGGO, D.F.C. (Aus. 402367), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 617 Squadron.
Flying Officer Daniel Revil WALKER, D.F.C. (Can/J.15336), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 617 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Richard Dacre TREVOR-ROPER, D.F.M. (47354), No. 617 Squadron.
Flying Officer Jack BUCKLEY (129460), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 617 Squadron.
Flying Officer Leonard CHAMBERS (N.Z. 403758), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 617 Squadron.
Flying Officer Harold Sydney HOBDAI (119219), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 617 Squadron.
Flying Officer Edward Cuthbert JOHNSON (119126), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 617 Squadron.
Pilot Officer George Andrew DEERING (Can/J.17245), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 617 Squadron.
Pilot Officer John FORT (49575), No. 617 Squadron.
Pilot Officer Cecil Lancelot HOWARD (Aus. 406248), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 617 Squadron.
Pilot Officer Frederick Michael SPAFFORD, D.F.M. (Aus. 407380), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 617 Squadron.
Pilot Officer Harlo Torger TAERUM (Can/J.16688), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 617 Squadron.

Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (Flying).

Can/R.94567 Flight Sergeant Kenneth William BROWN, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 617 Squadron.
656738 Flight Sergeant William Clifford TOWNSEND, D.F.M., No. 617 Squadron.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Medal.

1165320 Sergeant Charles Ernest FRANKLIN, D.F.M., No. 617 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

552201 Flight Sergeant George Alexander CHALMERS, No. 617 Squadron.
Can/R.112723 Flight Sergeant Donald Arthur MACLEAN, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 617 Squadron.
Aus. 408076 Flight Sergeant Thomas Drayton SIMPSON, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 617 Squadron.
655673 Flight Sergeant Leonard Joseph SUMPTER, No. 617 Squadron.
919764 Sergeant Dudley Percy HEAL, No. 617 Squadron.
1199696 Sergeant George Leonard JOHNSON, No. 617 Squadron.
1144183 Sergeant Vivian NICHOLSON, No. 617 Squadron.
Can/R.114949 Sergeant Stefan OANCIA, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 617 Squadron.
652403 Sergeant John PULFORD, No. 617 Squadron.
1383334 Sergeant Edward WEBB, No. 617 Squadron.
1517241 Sergeant Raymond WILKINSON, No. 617 Squadron.

Air Ministry, 28th May, 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 Service Order.

Acting Wing Commander Leslie CROOKS, D.F.C. (44054), No. 426 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer is an ideal leader, whose ability and untiring efforts have been reflected in the high standard of efficiency of his squadron. His courage and skill were admirably demonstrated during a recent attack on Duisburg. When

approaching the target his aircraft was raked by cannon fire from an enemy fighter. Wing Commander Crooks skilfully evaded the attacker but his aircraft had sustained much damage. Although one aileron and half the port tail plane had been shot away, while the hydraulic and electrical systems were rendered inoperative, Wing Commander Crooks flew the bomber back to this country. Unfortunately, it was impossible to effect a safe landing but, when the crew were forced to abandon aircraft, all descended safely. In the face of heavy odds, Wing Commander Crooks set an example worthy of high praise.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Keith Frederick THIELE, D.S.O., D.F.C. (N.Z. 404966), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 467 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

One night in May, 1943, this officer captained an aircraft detailed to attack Duisburg. When nearing the target area, the aircraft was subjected to anti-aircraft fire and severely damaged when a shell burst underneath the fuselage. Despite this, Squadron Leader Thiele flew on to the target. Whilst making his bombing run, the aircraft was illuminated by the searchlights but this captain maintained a straight course in order to ensure accurate bombing. Just as the bomb aimer had completed his work, the aircraft was repeatedly hit by fragments from bursting shells. One burst destroyed 1 of the engines, whilst shortly afterwards a second engine was disabled. The wind-screens on the starboard side of the pilot's and the bomb aimer's cabins were shattered. Although he was dazed by a blow from a shell splinter, which struck him on the side of the head, Squadron Leader Thiele skilfully extricated the damaged bomber from a perilous situation and endeavoured to fly it to base. Shortly after crossing the English coast he was unable to maintain height but, displaying superb airmanship he struggled on and succeeded in effecting a crash-landing at an airfield. In most hazardous circumstances, Squadron Leader Thiele displayed courage, skill and determination of a high order.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commander William Donovan FERRIS (Can/C.1351), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 408 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has undertaken numerous sorties, including attacks on such heavily defended areas as Emden, Berlin, Essen, Cologne and others. He has displayed fine leadership great courage and skill, setting a most inspiring example. On 1 occasion with Stetten as the objective, locomotives and searchlight positions were machine-gunned in the course of the flight. On 2 occasions his aircraft has been illuminated by searchlights whilst over the target but, in spite of this, Wing Commander Ferris executed successful attacks.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Medal.

908781 Sergeant David Lionel PERRY, D.F.M., No. 35 Squadron.

In air operations, Sergeant Perry has displayed conduct in keeping with the highest traditions of the Royal Air Force.

Air Ministry, 28th May, 1943.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following award in recognition of brave conduct:—

Military Medal.

1459700 Aircraftman 1st Class Leonard George BULLEN, Royal Air Force Regiment.

In November, 1942, this airman with his flight, was on the coastal road proceeding in the direction of Sollum. When the convoy had reached a point at which the road was crowded with transport vehicles, an enemy bomber approached, dropping bombs which caused casualties. Aircraftman Bullen, with great presence of mind and coolness, manned his gun which was mounted on a lorry and successfully shot down the intruder before further damage was done. By his prompt action, Aircraftman Bullen undoubtedly saved many lives and much material from destruction. In December, 1942, he repeated this feat, destroying an enemy aircraft which was making a low level attack on dispersed aircraft.