

Flying Officer Alexander Augustus VALE (115915), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 126 Squadron.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties, including numerous fighter/bomber attacks on airfields, industrial targets and ports in Sicily and has achieved much success. In May, 1943, he attacked railway buildings at Syracuse, obtaining hits in the face of heavy anti-aircraft fire. Some days later he flew in a formation of fighters which acted as escort to a bomber force detailed to attack Augusta. Many hostile fighters were encountered and, in the ensuing combats, Flying Officer Vale damaged two of the enemy aircraft. This officer has displayed great keenness throughout.

Pilot Officer Colin Harben ROBINSON (N.Z.415786), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 158 Squadron.

One night in June, 1943, this officer captained an aircraft which attacked Bochum. On the return flight the aircraft was attacked by two enemy fighters. The aircraft was hit by gunfire and Pilot Officer Robinson was slightly injured in both legs by a cannon shell which passed between them. The rear turret was put out of action but, although the bomber was continuously attacked for some 15 minutes, Pilot Officer Robinson, by skilful evasive action, prevented further damage before the enemy aircraft were driven off. In very trying circumstances, this officer displayed great skill and determination. On two previous occasions his aircraft had been damaged by enemy action but he flew it safely to base.

Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (Flying).

Aus.413221 Flight Sergeant Francis Edwin MATHERS, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 77 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

432367 Sergeant Edward George Owen FRENCH, No. 77 Squadron.

1555010 Sergeant William SPEDIE, No. 77 Squadron.

One night in June, 1943, Sergeants French and Spedie were the wireless operator/air gunner and rear gunner respectively of an aircraft piloted by Flight Sergeant Mathers, which attacked Mulheim. Whilst over the target area, the bomber was subjected to heavy fire from the ground defences and was repeatedly hit. Two engines were rendered unserviceable in quick succession, while the starboard aileron control was shot away and 3 petrol tanks were pierced, all of which leaked rapidly. In spite of this, Flight Sergeant Mathers flew clear of the defences and set course for this country. On the return flight, the bomber gradually lost height and all movable equipment, including the guns of the mid-upper turret and some ammunition, were jettisoned. Shortly after crossing the enemy coast, the disabled aircraft was intercepted by an enemy fighter. In the ensuing engagement, Sergeant Spedie skilfully used his guns and, eventually with a devastating burst from close range, he shot the attacker down into the sea. The bomber was down to 500 feet but, displaying superb airmanship, Flight Sergeant Mathers, receiving much assistance from Sergeant French who diligently worked his wireless apparatus to obtain direction fixes, struggled on to reach an airfield near the coast. Although the undercarriage could not be lowered, this pilot successfully effected a crash-landing. In most harassing circumstances, Flight Sergeant Mathers displayed exceptional skill, courage and fortitude, while Sergeants French and Spedie displayed conduct worthy of the highest praise.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

N.Z.416101 Flight Sergeant Wilfred Eric ELDER, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 76 Squadron.

This airman was the captain and pilot of an aircraft which was detailed to attack Krefeld one night in June, 1943. On the outward flight, 1 engine of the bomber became unserviceable but, despite this, Flight Sergeant Elder continued to the target and pressed home a determined attack, afterwards flying the aircraft back to base. This airman displayed great skill and tenacity throughout, setting an inspiring example.

1381360 Sergeant Richard Sidney TAMPLIN, No. 23 Squadron.

As navigator, this airman has participated in many sorties, some of them whilst based in England. On one occasion, when his aircraft crash-landed and caught fire, Sergeant Tamplin

was mainly instrumental in extricating his seriously injured pilot from the cockpit. He showed complete disregard for his own welfare. In the Middle East, Sergeant Tamplin has participated in many attacks on rail communications in Sicily and Italy. This airman has displayed a high degree of skill and keenness.

Air Ministry, 16th July, 1943.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

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

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commander Walter Leslie JONES (43188), No. 113 Squadron.

Acting Wing Commander Harley Charles STUMM (70656), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 11 Squadron.

Flying Officer Owen Raymond CHAPMAN (N.Z.414589), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 268 Squadron.

Flying Officer Eric Wallace DUNLOP (106168), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 60 Squadron.

Flying Officer Alan Richard HILL (122080), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 268 Squadron.

Flying Officer David Samuel LORD (49149), No. 31 Squadron.

Flying Officer Trevor Eyre Drew MITCHELL (49740), No. 268 Squadron.

Warrant Officer Huon Andrew CHANDLER (N.Z.403944), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 615 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Aus.404160 Flight Sergeant (now Pilot Officer) Edward Leslie James ANDERSON, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 11 Squadron.

1382781 Flight Sergeant Frederick John BARNES, No. 268 Squadron.

581215 Flight Sergeant Frank Alfred HARBORD, No. 60 Squadron.

1127533 Acting Flight Sergeant Frank ROBINSON, No. 270 Squadron.

The above awards are for gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations.

Air Ministry, 16th July, 1943.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

Flg. Offs. to be Flt. Lts. (war subs.):—
1st May 1943.

J. A. MCCUDDEN (45645).

A. WHITBY, D.F.M. (45721).

J. G. MCCATHIE (45947). 8th May 1943.

W. H. ARUNDEL (46310). 10th May 1943.

F. SUMNER (45840). 14th May 1943.

15th May 1943.

L. V. HARCOURT (45807).

L. W. G. WARD (45743).

G. F. HODDER (45841). 22nd May 1943.

Plt. Offs. to be Flg. Offs. (war subs.):—

11th May 1943.

D. C. J. COLLIER (Lt. E. Lan. R.) (50106).

R. CROGER (Lt. R.A.) (50109).

A. R. FARRUP (Lt. The Queen's R.) (50110).

H. T. FRY (Lt. King's Own R.) (50107).

B. M. GILES (Lt. R.T.R.) (50108).

W. C. GRIFFIN (Lt. R.A.) (50112).

C. W. HAYTHORNTHWAITE (Lt. R.A.) (50111).

D. G. BENNETT (Lt. R.A.S.C.) (50288). 20th

May 1943.

Plt. Offs. (prob.) to be Flg. Offs. on prob. (war

subs.):—

D. E. C. CLARKE (49557). 2nd Jan. 1943.

2nd May 1943.

R. C. BRYANT (50592).

G. B. SUTHERLAND (51742).

W. W. BROWN (50803). 4th May 1943.

A. A. ARGENT (51740). 5th May 1943.

9th May 1943.

A. DUNHILL (50895).

H. W. GILL (51298).

J. N. COLLYER (50175). 10th May 1943.

F. BROCKLEBANK (50588). 13th May 1943.

J. F. DIXON (50856). 14th May 1943.

L. W. J. GAY (51733). 16th May 1943.