

landed on fire, in enemy territory. With complete disregard of his own safety, Sergeant Downton, who escaped serious injury in the crash, entered the blazing wreckage and assisted in extricating a member of the crew who was badly burned. He then tried valiantly to re-enter the rear of the aircraft to rescue a trapped comrade but was finally beaten by the intense heat of the conflagration. His courageous efforts, in spite of his wounds, were worthy of the highest praise.

*Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (Flying).*

1308178 Sergeant Edwin Thomas George HALL, No. 115 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1346616 Sergeant William Porter JOLLY, No. 115 Squadron.

1078262 Sergeant Ray Kingsley CROWTHER, No. 115 Squadron.

Sergeants Hall and Crowther were mid-upper gunner and wireless operator respectively of an aircraft, captained by Sergeant Jolly, which attacked Cologne one night in June, 1943. On the homeward flight the bomber was intercepted by 2 enemy fighters and a running combat ensued. Sergeant Jolly took violent evasive action but, eventually a burst of gunfire from 1 of the attackers, at close range, hit the rear turret, setting the fuselage on fire between the bulkhead doors. Sergeant Hall, the mid-upper gunner, kept firing his guns however, and the enemy aircraft was seen diving steeply and on fire. By this time, the rear turret was well alight and the fuselage became filled with smoke. The situation became critical but Sergeants Hall and Crowther, without waiting to connect the portable oxygen supply, attempted to quell the flames. Both airmen became thoroughly exhausted but gamely battled on and, after a prolonged struggle, succeeded in extinguishing the flames; it was then discovered that the rear turret had fallen off. Eventually, Sergeant Jolly flew the damaged bomber to an airfield in this country, landing it safely. In the face of a critical situation, these members of aircraft crew displayed courage, fortitude and determination of the highest order.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1267269 Flight Sergeant Donald Clive CHALLIS, No. 40 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in numerous sorties, involving attacks on targets in Pantellaria, Tunisia and Sicily and has displayed a high degree of skill and thoroughness throughout. One night in June, 1943, he attacked dock installations and the port at Pantellaria, causing much damage and starting a large fire which was visible many miles distant. His skill as a pilot has enabled many excellent photographs to be obtained.

756303 Flight Sergeant Kenneth Charles RIDLEY, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 263 Squadron.

This airman has taken part in 30 sorties, involving attacks on airfields, industrial targets, rail communications and shipping. He has displayed great skill and determination throughout and, on 3 occasions, when his aircraft has been severely damaged by enemy action, he has flown it back to base.

1291130 Flight Sergeant John Edward STAPLES, No. 126 Squadron.

This airman has completed a very large number of sorties and has displayed great zeal and ability. On 1 occasion in April, 1943, he took part in an attack on Marzedemi. In spite of intense anti-aircraft fire hits were obtained on sidings, an industrial plant and a large factory. Flight Sergeant Staples is a confident and tenacious pilot.

1388285 Sergeant Cecil Agar LAMBERT, No. 51 Squadron.

One night in July, 1943, this airman captained an aircraft detailed to attack Cologne. When crossing the enemy coast, on the outward flight, the aircraft was hit by fire from the ground defences. The fuselage was holed in several places, while 2 of the petrol tanks were pierced, causing the fuel to leak rapidly. A large fragment of shrapnel crashed through the windscreens of the pilot's cabin, and severed the shoulder strap of Sergeant Lambert's safety harness. With commendable determination, this airman continued

to the target and bombed it, obtaining an excellent photograph and afterwards flying the damaged aircraft to base. Sergeant Lambert displayed a high degree of skill and gallantry.

*Air Ministry, 23rd July, 1943.*

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

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

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant James Young MALLEY, D.F.C. (88695), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 178 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Major Johan Phillip DE VILLIERS (47832), South African Air Force, No. 24 (S.A.A.F.) Squadron. Major Jacobus Andreas MOUTON (103342), South African Air Force, No. 21 (S.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Lionel Edward LEON (88409), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 223 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Henry Berkeley NICKOLLS (Aus.406405), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 223 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant George Charles BARWELL (111243), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 178 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant David Hugh HANNAH (Aus.404551), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 55 Squadron.

Flying Officer Donald John BELLINGHAM (130806), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 178 Squadron.

Flying Officer Donald BOYD-STEVENSON (45948), No. 104 Squadron.

Flying Officer Brian Frederick FERMOR (130710), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 223 Squadron.

Flying Officer George Oswald LACE (116967), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 23 Squadron.

Flying Officer Malcolm SMITH (120892), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 70 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Reginald Albert WILD (Aus.407884), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 112 Squadron. Warrant Officer William Broughton GINGELL, D.F.M. (581329), No. 223 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

Aus.407521 Flight Sergeant Lindsay Moran BROOM, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 223 Squadron.

551762 Flight Sergeant Walter Herbert HAWKINS, No. 8 Squadron.

Aus.407989 Flight Sergeant Kevin Lewis NATTRASS, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 223 Squadron.

755191 Flight Sergeant William Charles TUCKER, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 55 Squadron.

Can/R.56500 Sergeant (now Pilot Officer) James GREENSHIELDS, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 70 Squadron.

995674 Sergeant Martin Gerard McMANUS, No. 23 Squadron.

948200 Sergeant John YOUNG, No. 178 Squadron.

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

*Air Ministry, 23rd July, 1943.*

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

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

*Air Force Medal.*

1200598 Flight Sergeant John Herbert COLLINS, No. 51 Squadron.

1234389 Sergeant Herbert Harry PARKER, No. 51 Squadron.

While returning from an operational sortie, the aircraft in which Flight Sergeant Collins and Sergeant Parker were flying as captain and bomb aimer respectively, developed a fault in one engine and was unable to gain height. On heading out to sea, the aircraft was engaged by heavy anti-aircraft fire, the petrol tanks and a second engine were set on fire. Preparations were made to descend on the sea. While the aircraft was approaching the water, and already burning fiercely, another hit was sustained, which killed the wireless operator and severely wounded Sergeant Parker, who had, throughout, rendered