

targets in Germany and often against heavy opposition. He is a navigator of exceptional ability and his work, carefully planned and brilliantly executed, has been reflected in the repeated successes obtained. Flight Lieutenant Coldwell is a most valuable member of the squadron and his praiseworthy qualities have set a high standard.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Wing Commander Vashon James WHEELER, M.C., D.F.C. (76504) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 157 Squadron.

This officer has led the squadron on very many sorties during which locomotives and other targets on the ground have been attacked with telling effect. Much of the success achieved can be attributed to Wing Commander Wheeler's inspiring leadership and skill. His courageous example has been worthy of great praise.

Acting Squadron Leader Reginald Noel Basil STEVENS, D.F.C. (Aus.404672), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 3 Squadron.

In August, 1943, Squadron Leader Stevens flew the leading aircraft of a formation which attacked shipping in the harbour at Milezzo. In spite of intense anti-aircraft fire, the attack was pressed home from a low level and 2 ships, 6 barges and a large flying boat were destroyed. By his skilful leadership and outstanding determination, Squadron Leader Stevens contributed materially to the successes obtained.

Flight Lieutenant Oliver Rayner MATHESON, D.F.C. (84010) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 83 Squadron.

In air operations, this officer has displayed courage and fortitude of a high order.

Flying Officer John Donald RAE, D.F.C. (N.Z. 402896), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 485 (N.Z.) Squadron.

Flying Officer Rae is an outstanding and determined pilot. He has undertaken many sorties displaying gallant leadership and great skill. Within recent weeks, Flying Officer Rae has shot down 4 enemy aircraft, bringing his total victories to at least 11. He has displayed exceptional keenness and devotion to duty.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Wing Commander Geoffrey Roger PARK (78710) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 256 Squadron.

This officer has completed an extremely large number of hours flying on operations at night. On one occasion, in July, 1943, he destroyed a Messerschmitt, while one night in August, 1943, he destroyed two Dornier 217s. During the latter combat his own aircraft was badly damaged but displaying great skill and determination he flew it to an airfield near the coast. Wing Commander Park is a highly efficient squadron commander who has displayed rare keenness and devotion to duty.

Squadron Leader William Bruce Whitla GRACEY (90020), Auxiliary Air Force, No. 144 Squadron.

This officer, who has taken part in many operations against shipping, has displayed commendable zeal and determination. During a recent sortie, Squadron Leader Gracey pressed home a vigorous attack on a merchant vessel and caused its destruction. He is a most determined leader and has set a very fine example.

Squadron Leader Arthur William MACK (40244) Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 605 Squadron.

This officer formerly completed a tour of operational duty in Bomber Command. Latterly in fighter operations at night, Squadron Leader Mack has displayed great keenness and tenacity. During a recent operational flight, and when some 430 miles from base, his aircraft struck an object and four feet of the starboard wing of his aircraft was broken off and all except two feet of the starboard airleone. Despite this, Squadron Leader Mack flew the aircraft to base. This officer has set a very fine example.

Flight Lieutenant Donald George ANDREWS (Aus. 404795) Royal Australian Air Force, No. 453 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has participated in numerous attacks on shipping during which he obtained hits on four vessels. His work, executed in the face of heavy anti-aircraft fire, was of a very determined order. Since joining his present squadron, Flight Lieutenant Andrews has undertaken a large number of sorties and has displayed a high degree of

efficiency. In a recent engagement against a force of 12 enemy fighters, Flight Lieutenant Andrews led his formation with great skill. During the fight he shot down one enemy aircraft.

Flight Lieutenant Phillip John KELLEY (67647), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 683 Squadron.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties in the Middle East theatre. He is an outstanding reconnaissance pilot and his many successes are a fine tribute to his great skill and tenacity. During a reconnaissance early in July, 1943, Flight Lieutenant Kelley made 12 runs over the target in spite of fighter interference. Some days later he undertook another flight and photographed many airfields.

Flight Lieutenant Leicester Cornelius KINGSBURY (41713), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 218 Squadron.

This officer has participated in several sorties and has displayed great determination in pressing home his attacks. One night in August, 1943, he took part in an attack on Peenemunde. During the operation his aircraft was attacked on four occasions by fighters but each time he frustrated the attackers and finally flew his aircraft unscathed to base. Some nights later, during another sortie, his skilful airmanship enabled his gunners to deal effectively with a fighter which attempted to interfere. Flight Lieutenant Kingsbury has set a highly commendable example.

Acting Flight Lieutenant John Alfred DIXON (123105), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 214 Squadron.

One night in August, 1943, this officer piloted an aircraft which attacked Nuremburg. Whilst over the target, the aircraft was attacked by two enemy fighters simultaneously from ahead and astern. The bomber was repeatedly hit and, although much damage was sustained, Flight Lieutenant Dixon succeeded in flying clear. Then, two engines ceased to function and the bomber rapidly lost height. With consummate skill, Flight Lieutenant Dixon maintained height at 2000 feet until his efforts to re-start one of the defective engines were successful. The damaged bomber became difficult to control but Flight Lieutenant Dixon flew it to an airfield near the coast. His skill and tenacity set a commendable example.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Norman Ralph FOWLOW (Can./J.15095), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 421 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in a very large number of sorties and has proved himself to be a skilful and courageous fighter. He has destroyed 4 and shared in the destruction of another enemy aircraft.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Brian Guy HARRIS (Aus.416333), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 3 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in very many sorties and has displayed skill and courage of a high order. In operations against Sicily he led the squadron on several occasions and his efforts contributed materially to the successes obtained. In August, 1943, Flight Lieutenant Harris took part in an attack on shipping in Milezzo harbour and obtained a hit on a medium sized ship. This officer has displayed outstanding devotion to duty.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Albert Edward Hugo PARSONS (113356), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 44 Squadron.

Flying Officer Cyril Govier PASCOE (135779), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 44 Squadron.

These officers were pilot and rear gunner respectively of an aircraft detailed for an operation against Berlin one night in August, 1943. When nearing the Dutch coast the aircraft was attacked by a fighter but the assailant was destroyed by the determined and skilful fire directed by Flying Officer Pascoe and the mid-upper gunner. Flight Lieutenant Parsons then flew on to the target which was bombed successfully. Shortly afterwards the bomber was hit by fire from another fighter. The inter-communication system and the rear turret were rendered unserviceable. A fire broke out in the turret but Flying Officer Pascoe although in great pain from wounds sustained to both his feet and in the leg, obtained an extinguisher and subdued the flames, finally extinguishing them with the contents of a coffee flask. Displaying great fortitude he remained at his post and, later on, when the bomber was