

Conspicuous Gallantry Medal.

N.Z. 415807 Flight Sergeant Osric Hartnell WHITE, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 75 (N.Z.) Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

573978 Sergeant Cyril Alan WORLEDGE, Royal Air Force, No. 75 (N.Z.) Squadron.

1583321 Sergeant Timothy James COLLINS, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 75 (N.Z.) Squadron.

These airmen were pilot, flight engineer and mid-upper gunner respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin one night in August, 1943. When nearing the target, the aircraft was illuminated by the searchlights and repeatedly hit by anti-aircraft fire, sustaining damage to the port main plane. Despite this, Flight Sergeant White confined his bombing run but was attacked by a fighter. The bomber was hit by the attacker's gun-fire which wrecked the rear turret, killing the gunner, and causing the aircraft to dive out of control directly over the target. Nevertheless, Flight Sergeant White released his bombs and succeeded in regaining control. Considerable height had been lost but this pilot coolly and skilfully flew clear of the target area and course was set for base. Much essential equipment had been rendered useless but, with unerring skill, Flight Sergeant White flew the badly damaged bomber to base. His courage, tenacity and devotion to duty set an example of the highest order. During the return flight, Sergeants Worledge and Collins assisted their pilot in every way within their power and proved themselves most valuable members of aircraft crew, displaying great courage and resource.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

N.Z. 42340 Flight Sergeant Alan John RHODES, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 90 Squadron.

This airman was the wireless operator of an aircraft which attacked Hamburg one night in July, 1943. Shortly after the bombs had been released the bomber was hit by anti-aircraft fire and sustained extensive damage. The inter-communication and electric systems were damaged and, whilst his captain was endeavouring to out-manceuvre an enemy fighter, Flight Sergeant Rhodes attempted to make personal contact with the bomber's gunners. A gap had been torn in the floor of the aircraft but Flight Sergeant Rhodes crossed it to assure himself of his comrades' welfare. He afterwards traced the defect in the inter-communication system and, after an hour's effort, succeeded in repairing it. He displayed exemplary conduct, in the face of a difficult situation.

1340628 Flight Sergeant Aubrey Cartwright SMITH, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 137 Squadron.

This airman has completed many sorties during which he has attacked a variety of targets, including shipping, airfields and mechanical transport. On 1 occasion he executed a determined attack on a convoy of some 40 lorries, causing much destruction. On another occasion he destroyed an E-boat and a minesweeper. This airman has invariably displayed outstanding keenness and determination.

1247451 Sergeant Jack Leslie CLARK, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 156 Squadron.

As flight engineer, Sergeant Clark has participated in numerous sorties and has displayed great skill and devotion to duty. On 1 occasion, during an operation against a target in the Ruhr area, his courage and coolness in circumstances of great peril set an example in keeping with the best traditions of the Royal Air Force.

1333913 Sergeant John Alfred William HOWE, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 144 Squadron.

As captain of aircraft this airman took part in an attack on an enemy convoy in July, 1943. Whilst over the target the aircraft was hit by shell-fire, whilst Sergeant Howe sustained a severe wound in the leg and was hit in the face. Despite this he resolutely pressed home his attack with great effect, afterwards flying the damaged aircraft to base. Sergeant Howe displayed great courage and fortitude, setting a fine example of devotion to duty.

1439046 Sergeant George Ernest RUSSELL, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 78 Squadron.

One night in August, 1943, this airman was the mid-upper gunner of an aircraft detailed for an operation against Berlin. Shortly after the target had been successfully attacked, the aircraft was engaged in quick succession by 2 fighters. They were

driven off, however, and, during the combats, Sergeant Russell used his guns to good effect. Whilst over the North Sea, engine trouble developed and the aircraft dived out of control and crashed into the sea. An empty petrol tank floated clear of the wreckage. Sergeant Russell swam towards it and, although his safety jacket was useless, he assisted 3 of his injured comrades into the tank before scrambling aboard himself. Later, 1 of the crew fell into the sea through exhaustion but the others remained on the tank, which was gradually filling with water until rescued some 16 hours later. During a trying ordeal, Sergeant Russell displayed gallantry and fortitude of a high order.

Air Ministry, 24th September, 1943.

AWARDS OF ALLIED DECORATIONS.

The KING has granted unrestricted permission for the wearing of the undermentioned decorations, conferred upon the personnel indicated, in recognition of valuable services rendered in connection with the war:—

CONFERRED BY HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE HELLENES.

Commander in the Royal Order of George I (with swords).

Air Vice-Marshal Matthew Brown FREW, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., A.F.C., Royal Air Force.

CONFERRED BY HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS.

Grand Cross of the Order of Orange Nassau.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Frederick William BOWHILL, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Royal Air Force.

CONFERRED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND.

Order of Polonia Restituta.

Grand Officer.

Air Marshal Sir William Lawrie WELSH, K.C.B., D.S.C., A.F.C., Royal Air Force.

Acting Air Commodore Lawrence Fleming PENDRED, M.B.E., D.F.C., Royal Air Force.

Commander.

Acting Air Commodore Theodore Neuman McEVROY, O.B.E., Royal Air Force.

Group Captain Louis William JARVIS, Royal Air Force (Retired).

Group Captain Richard Bowen JORDAN, D.F.C., Royal Air Force.

Officer.

Wing Commander Frederick William MOKHAM, A.F.C. (18178), Royal Air Force.

Wing Commander Frederick Basil TOMKINS, A.F.C. (19174), Royal Air Force.

Acting Wing Commander Hugh Patrick Ruffell SMITH, M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (23353), Royal Air Force.

Honorary Wing Commander Ernest Noel GROWDON, Royal Air Force.

Acting Squadron Leader Hubert PERRING (70536), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

The KING has also granted restricted permission for the wearing of the undermentioned decoration, conferred upon the officer indicated, in recognition of valuable services rendered in connection with the war:—

CONFERRED BY HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE HELLENES.

Commander in the Royal Order of George I (with swords).

Lieutenant-Colonel Stephen Alexander MELVILLE, O.B.E., South African Air Force.

AMENDMENT.

In notification of 18th May 1943 (p. 2201, col. 2) for 412870 Sergeant Peter DEVINE read N.Z. 412870 Sergeant Peter DEVINE, Royal New Zealand Air Force.

Air Ministry, 24th September, 1943.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

Flg. Offs. to be Flt. Lts. (war subs.):—

R. H. PAYNE (47401). 1st Apr. 1943.

D. BOYD-STEVENSON (45948). 17th May 1943.