

Flying Officer Neill Dudley Cox (124417) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 39 Squadron.

This officer has participated in many sorties and has displayed great keenness and devotion to duty. On one occasion in September, 1943, Flying Officer Cox took part in an engagement against a force of enemy aircraft, 1 of which he shot down. The following day, during a similar sortie, Flying Officer Cox destroyed a Junkers 52. Shortly afterwards, he was engaged by 2 fighters. In the combat his aircraft was extensively damaged and his observer was seriously wounded. Later, when his aircraft could no longer be flown, Flying Officer Cox skilfully brought it down on to the sea. After assisting his gravely wounded comrade into the dinghy, Flying Officer Cox clambered aboard. Seeing his comrade was in dire need of assistance and that no progress could be made by paddling the dinghy, this gallant officer jumped overboard and swam to the shore a mile distant towing the dinghy as he went. His determination and forethought set a very fine example.

Flying Officer Raymond Stewart MODERA (118474), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 227 Squadron.

Flying Officer Modera has participated in a large number of sorties, involving attacks on shipping, harbour installations and other important targets. He is a resolute pilot, whose determination to ensure accurate bombing has been most commendable. Flying Officer Modera is a fine leader and has proved a source of inspiration.

Lieutenant Raymond Ponsonby BURL (24135V), South African Air Force, No. 7 (S.A.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties, many of them in North Africa. He is a skilful and tenacious pilot, whose example of courage and devotion to duty have been inspiring. In recent operations over Cos, Lieutenant Burl destroyed one and assisted in the destruction of another enemy aircraft.

Warrant Officer Edward James LEDWIDGE (1165682), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 46 Squadron.

Warrant Officer Ledwidge is a most determined pilot, whose excellent qualities have been well in evidence throughout the many sorties in which he has taken part. On one occasion, in an attack on a large concentration of shipping off Cos Island, Warrant Officer Ledwidge defied a fierce anti-aircraft barrage to close in on a naval vessel which he raked with bullets and hit with his bombs, setting the ship on fire. His aircraft was repeatedly hit, however, and one of the petrol tanks set alight. The flames spread rapidly and Warrant Officer Ledwidge was compelled to bring the burning aircraft down on to the sea. He got safely aboard the dinghy and, some 8 hours later, drifted ashore. This gallant pilot set an example of the highest order.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Aus.405913 Flight Sergeant Michael William JACKSON, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 46 Squadron.

In air operations Flight Sergeant Jackson has displayed great keenness, skill and resolution. On a recent occasion he participated in an attack on a large concentration of shipping. In the face of intense anti-aircraft fire, Flight Sergeant Jackson pressed home his attack from a low level and obtained hits on one of the vessels. His aircraft was repeatedly hit and the rudder control wires were shot away. Nevertheless, he flew back to base where he effected a masterly landing. This airman displayed great courage, skill and devotion to duty.

1338643 Sergeant Harry Hamblin SHERER, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 51 Squadron.

One night in November, 1943, Sergeant Sherer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Dusseldorf. On the outward flight, whilst many miles from the target, one of the bomber's engines caught fire. Sergeant Sherer, acting with promptitude and resource, quickly extinguished the flames but the engine was useless. Although the aircraft lost some height, this resolute pilot went on to the target and executed a successful attack. Sergeant Sherer, who has undertaken many sorties, has attacked his targets fearlessly and with vigour, setting a very fine example.

Air Ministry, 26th November, 1943.

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

Distinguished Service Order.

Lieutenant-Colonel James Alexander WILLIAMS, D.F.C. (P47642), South African Air Force, No. 24 (S.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Captain Daniel McPHERSON, D.F.C. (21440V), South African Air Force, No. 24 (S.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Lieutenant-Colonel Oswald Frank WELLINGTON (P.102623), South African Air Force, No. 12 (S.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Major Alexander Christian JANDRELL (203151V), South African Air Force, No. 21 (S.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Pilot Officer George BASARICH (Can/J.17784), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 114 Squadron.

Warrant Officer Thomas Raymond WOODS (522354), Royal Air Force, No. 114 Squadron.

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

Air Ministry, 26th November, 1943.

The KING has been graciously pleased on the advice of Australian Ministers to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy in the South-West Pacific area:—

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader William Thomas Martin BOULTON (Aus.216), Royal Australian Air Force.

Squadron Leader Reginald Lloyd GORDON (Aus.485), Royal Australian Air Force.

Acting Squadron Leader Eric Malcolm GIBBS (43200), Royal Air Force.

Department of National Defence for Air, Ottawa, 26th November, 1943.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations:—

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer David Gilmore BALDWIN (Can/J.5702), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 5 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Flying Officer William Stuart Goodlake NUTTER (Can/J.7206), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 5 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Flying Officer Edward LaPage ROBINSON (Can/J.9200), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 145 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Warrant Officer Second Class Charles William LANDALE (Can/R.93370), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 5 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1394958 Sergeant Ian Douglas WALLACE, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Can/R.65039 Sergeant George Harold THOMSON, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 5 (S.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Department of National Defence for Air, Ottawa, 26th November, 1943.

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

Air Force Cross.

Squadron Leader William Godfrey PATE (Can/C.1580), Royal Canadian Air Force.

Pilot Officer Alan MacKenzie JAMES (Can/J.21313), Royal Canadian Air Force.

Air Ministry, 26th November, 1943.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

Promotion.

Wg. Cdr. (temp.) granted the rank of Wg. Cdr. (war subs.):—

A. F. JOHNSON, D.F.C. (36002). 20th Sept. 1943.