

He has taken part in a large number of sorties, involving attacks on a wide variety of well defended targets. On one occasion, in an attack on Kassel, his aircraft was attacked by a fighter. Displaying great skill, Flying Officer Burr out-maneuvred the enemy aircraft and his gunners were enabled to deliver effective bursts of machine-gun fire which caused the attacker to break away with one engine on fire. Flying Officer Burr has invariably displayed great coolness and courage in the face of the enemy.

Pilot Officer Wilfred BEAUMONT (157453), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 158 Squadron.

This officer is a wireless operator of outstanding merit and his efforts have contributed materially to the success of many of the sorties in which he has participated. In addition, Pilot Officer Beaumont has devoted much effort in the training of other members of the squadron. He has displayed outstanding ability and great devotion to duty.

Pilot Officer Jack FINDING (156982), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 83 Squadron.

One night in September, 1943, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Hanover. Whilst over the target area, the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. The inter-communication system was rendered unserviceable and other damage sustained. Pilot Officer Finding continued his bombing run, however, and pressed home his attack. On the return journey the aircraft was again hit by fire from the ground defences and the hydraulic gear was put out of action. Nevertheless, Pilot Officer Finding battled on to reach an airfield in this country and effected a masterly crash-landing. In perilous circumstances, this officer displayed great courage and confidence and his example greatly inspired his crew.

Pilot Officer Rueben Henry GILES (148129), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 603 Squadron.

This officer has completed many sorties and has displayed high courage and great devotion to duty. On a recent occasion he took part in a successful attack on a Siebel ferry. In spite of fierce opposition, Pilot Officer Giles pressed home his attack with great determination, setting a fine example.

Pilot Officer Keith Isaac Eula HOPKINS (Aus. 400924), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 603 Squadron.

This officer is a keen and determined pilot, whose fine fighting spirit has been evident throughout his tour. On 1 occasion he took part in an attack on shipping in Naxos harbour. In the face of fierce anti-aircraft fire, the attack was pressed home with great vigour and 2 vessels were set on fire. Pilot Officer Hopkins is a good leader, whose efforts have been most praiseworthy.

Pilot Officer Herbert Neville MOTTERTSHEAD (155238), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 158 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in numerous sorties, including attacks on such targets as Berlin, Cologne and Hamburg. His great skill was amply demonstrated on one occasion during an attack on Mannheim in September, 1943. Whilst over the target area, the aircraft was hit and one engine was immediately rendered useless. The aircraft went out of control and lost considerable height. By a great effort, Pilot Officer Mottershead regained control and afterwards flew the damaged bomber to base. This officer has displayed great keenness and devotion to duty.

Pilot Officer Herbert Arthur TAYLOR, D.F.M. (149537), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 38 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Taylor has completed a large number of sorties and has displayed outstanding devotion to duty throughout. Recently, he has taken part in several sorties in the Dodecanese area and his efforts have been featured by skill and determination of a high order. He is a most efficient captain, whose keenness and determination have set a very fine example.

Warrant Officer Colin Francis LALOLI (NZ. 39242), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 38 Squadron.

Warrant Officer Laloli was the wireless operator of an aircraft engaged on a sortie in November, 1943. In the action, Warrant Officer Laloli sustained multiple shrapnel wounds in the leg and the thigh. Despite this he insisted on fulfilling his duties until the operation was completed. His example of courage and devotion to duty was highly commendable.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

N.Z. 416191 Flight Sergeant Gordon William BURNES, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 44 Squadron.

One night in November, 1943, this airman captained an aircraft detailed to attack Kassel. Whilst over the target it was discovered that, owing to a mechanical defect, the bombs would have to be released manually. Flight Sergeant Burnes detailed a member of the crew to undertake the task and then made his bombing run. In spite of heavy anti-aircraft fire and fighter interference, this determined pilot made three runs over the target to ensure successful bombing. His coolness and courage in difficult circumstances were worthy of great praise. This airman has participated in very many sorties and has displayed great skill and keenness.

367671 Flight Sergeant George Stanley SPENCER, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 38 Squadron.

In November, 1943, this airman was the rear gunner in an aircraft detailed for an operation against enemy shipping. In the attack, which was executed at a low level, Flight Sergeant Spencer was wounded in the back. Nevertheless, he insisted on remaining at his post until the operation was concluded. He displayed fortitude and devotion to duty of a high order.

549157 Sergeant Thomas Herbert McSHANE, Royal Air Force, No. 214 Squadron.

As flight engineer, this airman has participated in many sorties and has proved himself to be a most dependable member of aircraft crew. On one occasion he was a member of the crew of one of two aircraft which collided whilst in flight. His aircraft, which was carrying several mines, caught fire and temporarily went out of control. Undeterred Sergeant McShane coolly fought the flames with an extinguisher until a crash-landing was effected. On another occasion his aircraft sustained serious damage in an engagement with two fighters. Two of the bomber's engines were put out of action and the propeller of one of them subsequently fell away. Sergeant McShane succeeded in re-starting the other defective engine thus making a valuable contribution towards the safe return of the aircraft. This airman has displayed exceptional skill and courage of a high order.

1821792 Sergeant Peter STUART, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 428 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Can/R. 53177 Sergeant Andrew Campbell YULE, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 428 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Sergeants Stuart and Yule were mid-upper gunner and flight engineer respectively of an aircraft which attacked Kassel one night in October, 1943. Shortly after leaving the target, the bomber was hit by machine-gun fire from an enemy fighter and the rear gunner was wounded. Sergeant Stuart used his guns effectively, however, and drove off the attacker. Another attack quickly developed, but, although his oxygen supply had failed, this resolute gunner continued firing his guns whilst giving skilful evading directions to his pilot. Another fighter was also evaded and then Sergeant Stuart left his station to extinguish a fire in the rear turret. Sergeant Yule who had been wounded in both arms and in the hip when going to the assistance of the rear gunner displayed great courage and fortitude and insisted on fulfilling his engineering duties until the aircraft reached base. In circumstances fraught with great danger these airmen displayed courage, determination and devotion to duty of a high order.

Air Ministry, 14th December, 1943.

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

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Noel Thomas QUINN (Aus. 622), Royal Australian Air Force.