

Berlin. One night in December, 1943, when detailed to attack targets in this city, Flight Sergeant Laurens displayed great skill and determination to complete his mission successfully in the face of difficulties. Some nights previously he attacked targets in the same area. During the bombing run his aircraft was hit by aircraft fire and was thrown out of control. Flight Sergeant Laurens skilfully regained control, however, and executed a determined attack. This airman has invariably displayed skill, courage and determination.

1431692 Sergeant James Laurence DUFFY, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 77 Squadron.

1148328 Sergeant Thomas KING, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 77 Squadron.

These airmen were navigator and wireless operator respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin one night in December, 1943. On the outward flight some important navigational equipment became useless but Sergeant Duffy unerringly guided the aircraft to the target which was successfully attacked. Some time later the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. The ailerons, the hydraulic gear and the wireless apparatus were rendered unserviceable. The aircraft became difficult to control and later, contact with the main bomber force was lost. Nevertheless, Sergeant Duffy plotted his way home with great coolness and much skill. Meanwhile, Sergeant King worked hard to repair his wireless apparatus and eventually succeeded in so doing. He obtained a fix at extreme range and his success at this stage proved a valuable aid. In the face of trying circumstances these airmen displayed courage, determination and resource of a high order.

1323138 Sergeant Leonard Ryland LUFFMAN, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 101 Squadron.

One night in December, 1943, this airman was the wireless operator of an aircraft detailed for a sortie over enemy territory. Before the target was reached the aircraft was hit by shrapnel and the mid-upper gunner was wounded. Sergeant Luffman immediately went to his comrade's assistance, helping him to a rest position and then rendering first aid. Afterwards, he manned the wounded gunner's turret. Soon after leaving the target the aircraft was attacked by 4 fighters. Sergeant Luffman soon proved his skill by shooting down 1 of the enemy aircraft whilst his excellent evading directions enabled his pilot to out-maneuvre the remainder of the attackers. During another sortie, some nights later, his aircraft was attacked by a Junkers 88. Once again, Sergeant Luffman co-operated well with his pilot who successfully evaded the enemy aircraft. This airman has displayed great skill and his courage and resource have been of a high order.

Can/R.136383 Sergeant Joseph Herve Leon QUESNEL, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 432 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

As rear gunner, Sergeant Quesnel has taken part in several sorties and has proved himself to be a cool and reliable member of aircraft crew. During a sortie one night in October, 1943, his aircraft was attacked by enemy fighters. In the engagement Sergeant Quesnel fought with great resolution and destroyed one of the attackers. On another occasion, in November, 1943, his aircraft was attacked 3 times by enemy fighters. His turret was rendered unserviceable but he coolly directed his pilot's combat manoeuvres and the attackers were evaded. This airman has set a very fine example.

*Air Ministry, 25th January, 1944.*

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

*Distinguished Service Order.*

Acting Wing Commander Lance WADE, D.F.C. (68717), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Wing Commander James Alfred Avory READ, D.F.C. (39799), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 108 Squadron.

Major Robert Harry ROGERS, D.F.C. (102299V), South African Air Force, No. 40 (S.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Charles Gordon St. David JEFFRIES, D.F.C. (41929), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 155 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Anthony Golding BIRD, D.F.C. (119122), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 268 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Denis Charles SAVAGE, D.F.C. (129950), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 18 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Lieutenant Colonel Cornelius Pyper KOTZE (102632V), South African Air Force, No. 21 (S.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Major Eric Melville BAKER (47303V), South African Air Force, No. 5 (S.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Major Alexander Leonard STUART (47586V), South African Air Force, No. 21 (S.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Paul Watling RABONE (36179), Royal Air Force, No. 23 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Roy Douglas SHAW (Aus.402406), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 459 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Phillip Valentine King TRIPE (42279), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 129 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Alec BRES (106178), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 268 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant David Eric FAIRBAIRN (Aus. 401427), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 4 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Patrick Beverley LAING-MEASON (103564), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 43 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Michael Alan RICHARDSON (115442), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 168 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Charles Theodore Peter STEPHENSON (45335), Royal Air Force, No. 4 Squadron.

Captain Jan VAN-NUS (10377IV), South African Air Force, No. 1 (S.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Peter Dundas THOMSON, D.F.M. (126705), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 458 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Robert Wilkinson TURKINGTON (117519), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 43 Squadron.

Flying Officer George William ATTENBOROUGH (130447), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 107 Squadron.

Flying Officer Thomas Henry CAMERON (Can/J. 17785), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 255 Squadron.

Flying Officer Charles Bindon CARTER, D.F.M. (132348), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 107 Squadron.

Flying Officer James Lascelles HOOD (145917), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 255 Squadron.

Flying Officer John William Alec McANULTY (134562), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 600 Squadron.

Flying Officer Eric James MILNE (122226), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 268 Squadron.

Flying Officer Richard James Firth MITCHELL (123603), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 268 Squadron.

Flying Officer Vincent Kenneth MOODY (Can/J. 15362), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 610 Squadron.

Flying Officer Leslie Roy NEWTON (137382), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 40 Squadron.

Flying Officer Donald Curtis WALCH (Aus.404489), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 180 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Norman Douglas HARRISON (N.Z. 413068), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 1435 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Gregory JAKIMOV (Aus.411787), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 500 Squadron.

Pilot Officer James Louis WESTON (155832), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 21 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

N.Z.414601 Flight Sergeant Arnold DIVERS, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 283 Squadron.

1375065 Flight Sergeant Harold Croft GRUNDEY, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 70 Squadron.

1294069 Flight Sergeant Edwin John HOLMES, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 284 Squadron.

N.Z.415793 Flight Sergeant Robert Ernest SROWERS, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 70 Squadron.

1239631 Sergeant Jack Ronald MILSON, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 70 Squadron.

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