

Berlin, Hamburg and Turin. On one occasion, whilst over Kassal, his aircraft was attacked by a fighter. Although much damage was sustained, Flight Lieutenant Woodruff skilfully manoeuvred his aircraft to enable his gunner to fire a long burst of fire at the attacker which went down in flames. Flight Lieutenant Woodruff then went on to complete a successful attack on the target. This officer has invariably displayed great courage and determination.

Flying Officer Wilfred Thomas HAXBY (135038), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 57 Squadron.

Flying Officer Haxby has taken part in a large number of sorties, including 6 against the capital of the Reich. He is a navigator of exceptional ability, a quality which was well in evidence in a recent sortie against Berlin when his efforts contributed materially to the success obtained. This officer has rendered valuable service.

Flying Officer Robin Herbert KNIGHTS (47835), Royal Air Force No. 101 Squadron.

Flying Officer Ferguson George Donaldson SMITH (133655), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 101 Squadron.

Flying Officer Smith was a member of the crew of an aircraft piloted by Flying Officer Knights detailed to attack the German capital. When nearing the target the aircraft was hit by cannon fire from a fighter. Flying Officer Smith sustained severe injuries, being wounded in the back, the chest and the leg, while 2 of his comrades were mortally wounded. Although the aircraft had sustained damage, Flying Officer Knights, displaying great determination, continued to the target and bombed it. In the meantime, Flying Officer Smith, who had refrained from reporting his injuries, worked heroically in an endeavour to free his trapped comrades from their turrets. Not until it was apparent that they were beyond human assistance would he relax his efforts. His courage, fortitude and determination were worthy of the highest praise. Throughout the return flight, Flying Officer Knights had to exert considerable pressure on the control column to maintain a level flight. Nevertheless, he succeeded in reaching base where he effected a safe landing. He displayed skill, courage and resolution of a high order.

Flying Officer Michael John NOLAN, D.F.M. (122305), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 487 (N.Z.) Squadron.

This officer has taken part in very many sorties since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal. He is a navigator of exceptional ability and his record is one of outstanding success. On a recent occasion he was the navigator of the leading aircraft of a section detailed to attack a target in Northern France. When crossing the enemy coast the aircraft was badly damaged when hit by anti-aircraft fire. The pilot held to his course, however, and was guided to the target by Flying Officer Nolan with his usual accuracy. This officer has displayed exceptional keenness and great devotion to duty.

Flying Officer George James WALLACE (129183), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 158 Squadron.

As air bomber, Flying Officer Wallace has taken part in attacks on most of the heavily defended targets in Germany. He is possessed of great courage and determination, qualities which have earned him many successes. His fine record is worthy of great praise.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Robert Nathan SHARD, D.F.M. (155256), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 78 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Can/R69999 Flight Sergeant Ross Barrett IRWIN, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 78 Squadron.

This officer and airman were pilot and flight engineer respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Magdeburg one night in January, 1944. During the operation the aircraft was attacked by a fighter and sustained much damage. The astro-dome was shot away, the mid-upper and rear turrets were put out of action and the hydraulic gear was damaged; the port inner propeller blade was also damaged. The fighter made repeated

attacks but Flight Sergeant Irwin, standing with his head protruding through the aperture which had been previously covered by the astro-dome, gave the necessary directions to his pilot who was thus able to out-manoeuvre and eventually evade the attacker. Later, one of the starboard engines had to be feathered. Nevertheless, Flight Lieutenant Shard flew the aircraft back to this country where he landed the bomber safely in spite of badly damaged flaps and burst tyres on two of the landing wheels. This officer and airman displayed great courage, determination and devotion to duty.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer Norman Allan MARSTON (136912), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 78 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1672812 Sergeant Douglas William McMILLAM, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 78 Squadron.

This officer and airman were air bomber and mid-upper gunner respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Magdeburg. On the outward flight the aircraft was attacked by a fighter and damage was sustained. In spite of this, the mission was continued and the target was successfully attacked. On the homeward flight, whilst over the North Sea the petrol supply became exhausted and the aircraft had to be brought down on to the sea. This was skilfully accomplished but the violence of the waves broke the aircraft in two and the dinghy drifted away. Undaunted, Flying Officer Marston and Sergeant McMillam discarded most of their equipment, plunged into the water and swam towards the dinghy. They succeeded in reaching it and, although almost exhausted, scrambled aboard. Although numb with cold and greatly fatigued they struggled valiantly against the violent seas to return to the sinking aircraft but their efforts were in vain. In most distressing circumstances this officer and airman displayed great courage and resolution and their conduct was worthy of the highest praise.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Can/R.142144 Flight Sergeant Alexander CLIBBERY, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 427 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This airman was the pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack Magdeburg one night in January, 1944. Whilst over the target area his aircraft was illuminated by searchlights and afterwards attacked by a fighter. Although the enemy aircraft was evaded the bomber had sustained much damage. Instruments had been shot away, the inter-communication system rendered unserviceable and the oxygen supply destroyed. Despite this, Flight Sergeant Clibbery completed his bombing run and afterwards flew the damaged aircraft to base. This airman displayed a fine fighting spirit, great determination and devotion to duty.

1315224 Flight Sergeant Tom Noel Heywood FOGATY, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 115 Squadron.

This airman was the pilot of an aircraft which attacked targets in Brunswick one night in January, 1944. Soon after leaving the target area the aircraft was intercepted by a fighter which attacked with much persistence. The bomber was hit in many places by the enemy's bullets. One engine was rendered useless, the front and mid-upper turrets were put out of action and the aircraft became filled with smoke. Nevertheless, Flight Sergeant Fogaty succeeded in evading the attacker. Although height was gradually lost on the homeward flight, Flight Sergeant Fogaty reached base where he effected a masterly landing. In very trying circumstances, this airman displayed great skill and coolness and set a very inspiring example.

Aus.417298 Flight Sergeant Phillip Kenneth ROSS GERICKE, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 15 Squadron.

As rear gunner, Flight Sergeant Gericke has participated in very many sorties against important enemy targets. He is a cool, confident and resolute gunner and his skill has, on more than 1 occasion, contributed materially to the safe return of his aircraft. On 1 occasion, in an attack on Kassel, his aircraft was attacked by a