

though desperately wounded and suffering intensely, refused to leave his post. Although deprived of practically all his navigational equipment he plotted the route home with great skill. Eventually, Flying Officer Breckenridge reached base where he effected a successful crash-landing. His skill, courage and coolness in the face of heavy odds were worthy of the highest praise. Pilot Officer Baker and Warrant Officer Meek proved themselves to be valiant members of aircraft crew, displaying great courage, fortitude and devotion to duty. In spite of their injuries and much suffering they did all that was possible to assist in the safe return of the aircraft.

#### *Distinguished Flying Medal.*

Aus.418173 Flight Sergeant Geoffrey PRATT, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 44 Squadron.

As air gunner, Flight Sergeant Pratt has taken part in numerous sorties, 5 of them against Berlin. On the last of these attacks against the German capital, his aircraft was intercepted by 2 fighters which attacked almost simultaneously. Nevertheless, Flight Sergeant Pratt skillfully gave the necessary evading directions and afterwards both the attackers were shot down. In this spirited action, Flight Sergeant Pratt rendered excellent service and contributed materially to the success achieved. He is a most determined gunner, whose vigilance and skill have made him a valuable member of aircraft crew.

1392067 Flight Sergeant Harry TODD, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 199 Squadron.

This officer was the navigator of an aircraft detailed for a mine-laying mission one night in January, 1944. On the homeward flight, the aircraft came under fire from an enemy vessel. Flight Sergeant Todd was severely wounded in the leg. Although his wound was bleeding profusely, he held to his post to plot a course until compelled to leave his table so that a tourniquet could be applied to his leg. Afterwards, displaying great fortitude and devotion to duty, Flight Sergeant Todd continued to guide his pilot until he reached an airfield in this country. His exemplary conduct was highly commendable.

#### *Air Ministry, 22nd February, 1944.*

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

#### *Distinguished Service Order.*

Acting Group Captain Peter Langton DONKIN (33053), Royal Air Force.

Acting Squadron Leader Charles Elliott Sinclair PATTERSON, D.F.C. (87054), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 487 (R.N.Z.A.F.) Squadron.

#### *Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader George Bristow COOKE (83430), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Acting Squadron Leader Geoffrey Milburn ROBINSON (42151), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 456 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Alfred Edward ASHCROFT (112736), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 29 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Royalance Mills CHATFIELD (86417), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 267 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Richard Francis Christopher GARVEY (44811), Royal Air Force, No. 170 Squadron.

Flying Officer Frank Michael HENRY (48844), Royal Air Force, No. 107 Squadron.

Flying Officer Vernon WALL (52519), Royal Air Force, No. 226 Squadron.

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

*Office of the Minister of Defence, Wellington.  
22nd February, 1944.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy in the Solomon Islands:—

#### *Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Michael James HERRICK, D.F.C. (33566), Royal Air Force.

#### *Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader John Henry ARKWRIGHT (N.Z.1067), Royal New Zealand Air Force.

Acting Squadron Leader John Anderson OLDFIELD (N.Z.1316), Royal New Zealand Air Force.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Robert Hamish BALFOUR (N.Z.40958), Royal New Zealand Air Force.

Flying Officer Aitken Maxwell DAVIS (N.Z.414719), Royal New Zealand Air Force.

Flying Officer Leonard Adolphus RAYNER (N.Z.411937), Royal New Zealand Air Force.

#### *Distinguished Flying Medal.*

N.Z.41450 Flight Sergeant (now Pilot Officer) Trevor Edward GANLEY, Royal New Zealand Air Force.

The KING has also been graciously pleased to give orders for the publication of the names of the following Royal New Zealand Air Force personnel who have been mentioned in despatches:—

#### *Squadron Leaders.*

H. C. WALKER, A.F.C. (N.Z.1138).

J. S. NELSON (N.Z.1303) (Acting).

P. G. H. NEWTON (N.Z.1069) (Acting).

#### *Flight Lieutenants.*

W. G. C. ALLISON (N.Z.1222).

H. R. WIGLEY (N.Z.1312).

S. R. DUNCAN (N.Z.1307).

A. W. BUCHANAN (N.Z.1304).

M. R. CLARKE (N.Z.391824).

M. W. McCORMICK (N.Z.402198).

J. R. COURT (N.Z.401754).

#### *Flying Officer.*

S. L. DUNCAN (N.Z.415297).

#### *Pilot Officer.*

F. W. SMITH (N.Z.1865).

#### *Warrant Officer.*

J. C. VOSS (N.Z.415391).

#### *Flight Sergeants.*

N.Z.404448 A. McDONALD.

N.Z.411703 M. E. WILLIS.

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