

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer Arthur James WALKER (140904),
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 76
Squadron.

Pilot Officer John Albert BATE (171923), Royal Air
Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 76 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1214749 Sergeant Harry VAN DEN BOS, Royal Air
Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 76 Squadron.

These officers and airman were rear gunner, flight engineer and mid-upper gunner respectively of an aircraft which attacked Nuremburg one night in March, 1944. Just as the bombs had been released the aircraft was attacked by a fighter. Cannon shell and machine gun bullets struck the bomber, causing a fire to start in the fuselage, starboard mainplane and the main bomb bays; one of the starboard engines was also put out of action. Nevertheless, Flying Officer Walker and Sergeant Van Den Bos maintained their vigilance and as the enemy aircraft closed in to make another attack they drove it off by well directed bursts of fire. Shortly afterwards the fighter again attacked but Flying Officer Walker and Sergeant Van Den Bos defended their aircraft with great skill. Following their accurate bursts of fire the attacker was seen to spiral towards the ground, completely out of control. Meanwhile, Pilot Officer Bate had displayed commendable promptitude in dealing with the fire and quelled the flames by means of extinguishers. On reaching an airfield in this country it was discovered that the undercarriage could not be released. Pilot Officer Bate immediately seized an axe, hacked a way through the fuselage to reach and release the uplock, thus allowing the undercarriage to drop to the down position. His pilot then landed the aircraft safely. In trying circumstances these officers and airman displayed great courage, determination and devotion to duty.

Aus. 410118 Flight Sergeant Eric Emerson HUGHES,
Royal Australian Air Force, No. 179 Squadron.

This wireless operator (air) has completed numerous operational sorties during which 4 enemy submarines were sighted; on 3 of which successful attacks were made despite heavy opposing fire from the U-boats. Flight Sergeant Hughes has set an example worthy of emulation.

538508 Flight Sergeant William Edgar Peter WEBB,
Royal Air Force, No. 58 Squadron.

This airman has completed 97 operational sorties as a wireless operator (air) and has at all times displayed great skill and devotion to duty which have contributed much to the success of operations in which he has participated.

1158347 Sergeant Eric Percy Lionel MARVIN, Royal
Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 76 Squadron.

As air gunner, this airman has taken part in many sorties and has proved himself to be a vigilant and resolute member of aircraft crew. On his last sortie he was the rear gunner of an aircraft which attacked Mannheim. During the operation the bomber was intercepted by a fighter. In the ensuing engagement, Sergeant Marvin was severely wounded. He was hit in

both hands, wounded over the left eye and injured in the leg. Nevertheless, he continued firing his guns and the attacker was driven off. Sergeant Marvin was now compelled to leave his turret as his oxygen mask had been torn away. By using his elbows he managed to open the turret and then crawled to the rest position where he supplied himself with oxygen by seizing a tube with his teeth. He afterwards attracted the attention of one of his comrades and received attention. In the face of a most trying ordeal this airman displayed courage, fortitude and determination of the highest order.

Air Ministry, 28th April, 1944.

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

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Warrant Officer Reginald Charles HOWES (1250604),
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 227
Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1181841 Flight Sergeant Anthony John THOROGOOD,
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 227
Squadron.

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND AIR FORCE.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant Gordon Loversidge BONHAM
(N.Z.402434), No. 243 Squadron.

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

Air Ministry, 28th April, 1944.

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

Distinguished Service Medal.

1459346 Leading Aircraftman Arthur Percy WHITE.

This airman has participated in a number of rescues and has always been an exceptionally seamanlike and zealous member of the crew of his launch. In June, 1942, he showed great determination when assisting to get 4 badly wounded men from the wardroom of a sinking motor torpedo boat. It was necessary to lash the men to stretchers, which made it a difficult operation to get them out of the wardroom. Subsequently an attempt was made to tow the sinking boat to port and in this Leading Aircraftman White assisted with skill. On another occasion, during the combined operations at Dieppe, this airman's launch was attacked by enemy aircraft and casualties were sustained. Nevertheless he, with other members of his crew, boarded another launch, which had also been attacked and moved the injured members of its crew to his own launch. Later, when the launch was sunk, Leading Aircraftman White sustained the crew by his fortitude and cheerfulness. He is a splendid seaman who has shown great keenness and devotion to his duties.

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