

Flying Officer Dudley Francis WARD (Aus.420413), Royal Australian Air Force No. 463 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed numerous sorties and has set a fine example of skill and determination. One night in April, 1944, he piloted an aircraft detailed for a bombing mission. Soon after his attack had been successfully completed one engine of his aircraft failed. Shortly afterwards, two more failed and the bomber began to lose height. The flight engineer succeeded in re-starting one of the defective engines however and the enemy coast was crossed at a low altitude. Eventually, an airfield was reached and Flying Officer Ward effected a safe landing. This officer displayed exceptional skill and determination throughout and his achievement was worthy of the greatest praise.

Pilot Officer Stanley DALE (169884), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 158 Squadron.

This officer has participated in a large number of successful sorties. He has displayed a high degree of skill and resolution and, on more than one occasion, his navigational ability has contributed materially to the safe return of his aircraft. He has at all times displayed keenness and devotion to duty, setting a praiseworthy example.

Pilot Officer Robert Cecil HOOPER (172176), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 630 Squadron.

One night in April, 1944, this officer was the pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack Munich. On the outward flight the aircraft was engaged by fighters. Early in the fight the mid-upper and rear turrets were put out of action and the rear gunner was badly wounded. Pilot Officer Hooper manoeuvred his defenceless aircraft with great skill however, and eventually the attackers broke off the engagement. The bomber had sustained much damage but this did not deter Pilot Officer Hooper from continuing his mission. The target was far distant but he went on to execute a successful attack and afterwards flew the damaged bomber to base. This officer set a fine example of skill; courage and resolution.

Pilot Officer Ronald James SCAMMELL (173784), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 218 Squadron.

One night in May, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft which attacked a target in German occupied territory. Soon after the bombs had been released the aircraft was attacked by two fighters. The first one was evaded but machine gun and cannon fire from the second fighter struck the bomber and caused much damage. The flight engineer was killed and the gunners were wounded. The aircraft became very difficult to control and most of the instruments had been rendered useless, nevertheless, Pilot Officer Scammell flew the aircraft to base where, with the flaps and the undercarriage inoperative, he made a successful crash-landing. In most difficult circumstances, this officer displayed a high degree of skill, courage and determination.

Pilot Officer James WISBEY (172872), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 640 Squadron.

This officer has completed very many sorties, including 4 attacks on Berlin and 3 on Frankfurt. He has set a fine example of devotion to duty and has invariably pressed home his attacks with great determination. One night in March, 1944, he piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Stuttgart. Soon after leaving base, it was discovered that the overload tank was not functioning. Nevertheless, Pilot Officer Wisbey flew on to his far distant target and made his attack. He afterwards flew safely back to this country and landed at an airfield with only sufficient petrol left for a few minutes flying. His determination was typical of that he has always shown to complete his allotted task successfully.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Pilot Officer Leonard HUNT (172474), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 166 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1874602 Sergeant Montague William SAUNDERS, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 166 Squadron.

One night in April, 1944, this officer and airman were pilot and flight engineer respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Friedrichshafen. When approaching the target the aircraft was struck by bursts of machine-gun fire from a fighter.

The rear turret was shattered and its occupant was fatally hit; the mid-upper turret was put out of action and the gunner was wounded. A large hole was torn in the elevator and the fuselage. The bomb doors were damaged, causing a failure of the hydraulic gear, whilst the mainplane itself was riddled by flying splinters. The bomber dived steeply but Pilot Officer Hunt, aided by Sergeant Saunders succeeded in regaining control. Despite the havoc caused by the attacker, Pilot Officer Hunt was determined to deliver his bombs. As the run-in was begun, Sergeant Saunders was hit in the leg and thigh by fragments of shrapnel from a shell which burst near the aircraft. Despite this he refrained from informing his pilot however, and the bombing run was completed with success. By this time, the aircraft was in a perilous position, being so nose heavy that it was beyond the strength of the pilot to keep the aircraft steady. Two members of the crew came to his assistance and finally they fixed a wire from the mid-upper turret to the control column and were able to pull when directed by their pilot. Thus assisted, Pilot Officer Hunt eventually reached this country where he effected a safe landing although as the aircraft touched down the undercarriage collapsed. This officer displayed the finest qualities of skill, courage and tenacity in the face of almost impossible odds. Sergeant Saunders also proved himself to be a brave and devoted member of aircraft crew. Although suffering acutely from his injuries he executed his engineering tasks with great skill, a factor which proved of the greatest assistance throughout the long and trying flight home.

*Air Ministry, 23rd May, 1944.*

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

*Distinguished Service Order.*

Acting Wing Commander Hugh William ELIOT, D.F.C. (42490), Royal Air Force, No. 255 Squadron.

Acting Wing Commander John Francis NEWMAN, D.F.C. (37823), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 70 Squadron.

Acting Wing Commander Percival Stanley TURNER, D.F.C. (41631), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

Squadron Leader Patrick Hardy Vesey WELLS (72098), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 255 Squadron.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Group Captain Leonard Cain SLEE, D.S.O., D.F.C. (32021), Royal Air Force, No. 139 Squadron.

Acting Wing Commander Kenneth Hughes BLAIR, D.F.C. (39704), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 613 Squadron.

Squadron Leader Stanley Charles NORRIS, D.F.C. (40561), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 11 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Albert Hart CROWE, D.F.C. (47040), Royal Air Force, No. 106 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Ralph Edgar WAGSTAFF, D.F.C. (108045), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 70 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Ian HEWITT, D.F.C. (119344), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 405 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Desmond IBBOTSON, D.F.C. (129238), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 601 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Eric James RICHARDS, D.F.C. (126507), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 611 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Alexander Charles SHIPWAY, D.F.C. (145344), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 83 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Leslie Hall TOLCHARD, D.F.C. (145337), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 83 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Wing Commander Charles Edwin HARRIS (37878), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 434 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Brian Guinness GLOVER (83712), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 102 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Derrick Albert Sandison COLVIN (61963), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 249 Squadron.