

of the 2 outer engines were severed, a portion of the starboard elevator was shot away, the oxygen supply was affected and 3 members of the crew, including Sergeant Weir, were wounded. Nevertheless, Flight Lieutenant Shadforth evaded the attacker and set course for home. Meanwhile, Sergeant Veale went to the assistance of the rear gunner who was trapped in his turret. Despite the lack of oxygen, he worked strenuously to hack away the doors of the turret in order to extricate his wounded comrade to whom he rendered efficient first aid. Despite his injuries, Sergeant Weir remained at his post fully determined to assist his pilot in every way in his endeavours to reach home. Eventually, Flight Lieutenant Shadforth reached base where he effected a masterly landing. This officer displayed a high degree of skill, courage and resolution. Sergeants Veale and Weir also proved themselves to be brave, resolute and devoted members of aircraft crew.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1343284 Flight Sergeant Alexander James DUGUID, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 260 Squadron.

Recently this airman piloted an aircraft to attack the Torre Dam, a reservoir which supplied hydro-electric power to the whole of the Pescara Plain. Pressing home his attack with great skill, Flight Sergeant Duguid released his bombs on the centre sluice gates, causing great damage to the dam thus releasing the water which burst through the gates and poured into the plain. Afterwards, several tidal waves were seen rushing down the river valley towards the town of Pescara. His achievement was worthy of the greatest praise. Flight Sergeant Duguid has taken part in many sorties and has invariably displayed exceptional keenness and determination.

947962 Flight Sergeant Neil Donaldson FORBES, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 502 Squadron.

As flight engineer this airman has taken part in a large number of sorties and has proved himself to be a skilful and valiant member of aircraft crew. One night in May, 1944, he took part in a sortie during which his aircraft was involved in an encounter with 7 Junkers 88s. In the fight the wireless operator was mortally wounded. Flight Sergeant Forbes promptly gave all the assistance possible to comfort his unfortunate comrade. He afterwards made a thorough investigation of the aircraft to assess the damage sustained. Not until this task was completed did his captain discover that Flight Sergeant Forbes had concealed the fact that he had been wounded in the thigh and hand and was in considerable pain. Despite this, he insisted on remaining at his post and fulfilled his engineering duties until the aircraft was safely landed at base. On a previous occasion, Flight Sergeant Forbes greatly distinguished himself when he rescued 2 of his comrades from the burning wreckage of his aircraft which had crashed and caught fire. His conduct has been in keeping with the best traditions of the Royal Air Force.

1278822 Acting Flight Sergeant Trevor Arthur LLOYD, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 550 Squadron.

1323565 Sergeant Reginald Leonard George MOORE, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 550 Squadron.

These airmen were pilot and wireless operator (air) of an aircraft detailed to attack a military target one night in May, 1944. Shortly after the target had been bombed the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and soon afterwards was attacked by a fighter. Extensive damage was sustained and the aircraft, which was on fire, dived steeply out of control. The situation was critical; but Flight Sergeant Lloyd, with the assistance of another member of the crew, succeeded in regaining control. Meanwhile, Sergeant Moore fought hard to subdue the flames in the rear of the aircraft and finally extinguished them. Afterwards, he rendered first aid to the navigator who was suffering severely from burns. It was extremely difficult to keep the aircraft flying but, despite the odds, Flight Sergeant Lloyd succeeded in reaching an airfield near the coast where he effected a successful crash-landing. He displayed the highest qualities of skill, courage and leadership throughout. Sergeant Moore also proved

himself to be a valiant and resolute member of aircraft crew, rendering invaluable assistance to his pilot in his endeavours to fly the aircraft home.

1861016 Sergeant Ronald David CHANDLER, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 57 Squadron.

This airman was the rear gunner of an aircraft detailed to attack Schweinfurt one night in April, 1944. Whilst over the target area the aircraft was engaged by a fighter. Early in the fight, Sergeant Chandler sustained a fractured leg when struck by a bullet. In spite of this he fought with great skill and finally his accurate bursts of fire drove off the enemy aircraft. Although in great pain and suffering acutely from the cold and loss of blood he remained at his post until he was certain that the engagement was terminated. He afterwards collapsed. This airman displayed a high degree of courage and resolution in defending his aircraft in difficult circumstances.

Can/R107427 Sergeant Robert Alexander EDIE, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 635 Squadron.

One night in April, 1944, this airman was the rear gunner of an aircraft detailed to attack Friedrichshafen. When nearing the target area the aircraft was attacked by 2 Junkers 88s. Coolly and skilfully, Sergeant Edie gave the necessary evading directions to his pilot and then brought his guns to bear on the attackers, one of which was shot down and the other driven off. Some time later he drove off another fighter which attempted to close in. His good shooting, coolness and co-operation played a worthy part in the success of the operation. This airman has completed many sorties against well defended targets.

Can/R.207740 Sergeant Duance Harris WRIGHT, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 432 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Can/R.207226 Sergeant Walter John ZIOMKO, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 432 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

These airmen were rear and mid-upper gunners respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack a target in Belgium one night in February, 1944. On the outward flight the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and sustained damage but this did not deter the pilot from continuing his mission. Whilst over the target area the bomber was attacked by an enemy aircraft. Sergeants Wright and Ziomko used their guns to great effect, however, and the attacker was seen to fall towards the ground and is believed to have been destroyed. A little later, these resolute gunners fought off three more fighters, whilst their skilful directions to their pilot enabled him to evade yet another fighter. Sergeants Wright and Ziomko proved themselves to be fearless members of aircraft crew and defended their aircraft with great skill and determination.

*Air Ministry, 9th June, 1944.*

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

*Distinguished Service Order.*

Acting Group Captain Duncan Charles Ruthven MACDONALD, A.F.C. (37017), Royal Air Force.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Wing Commander John Richard Hensman GAYNER (90399), Auxiliary Air Force, No. 153 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader John ARNSBY (89635), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 255 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader John Laurence Hillel BERLANDINA (46778), Royal Air Force, No. 114 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Ronald Frederick Frank CLARKE (119507), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 223 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant David OWEN (118421), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 126 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Patrick Ernest RAPSON (129737), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 23 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Percival James JORDEN (47631), Royal Air Force, No. 18 Squadron.

Flying Officer Cyril Stanley HUNTON (141735), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 274 Squadron.

Flying Officer John Fergus KING (127145), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 72 Squadron.