

have displayed praiseworthy keenness and skill throughout, and have destroyed three enemy aircraft.

Warrant Officer George Bilton REEDER (105467), R.A.F.V.R., 278 Sqn.

Warrant Officer Reeder has completed a very large number of air/sea rescue missions and has been responsible for saving many members of aircraft crew from the sea. He is a skilful and resolute pilot whose gallantry and endurance have been most evident on many occasions.

Warrant Officer John Frederick TAYLOR (630955), R.A.F., 138 Sqn.

Warrant Officer Taylor has participated in a very large number of sorties as flight engineer. He has at all times displayed a high degree of initiative and skill and his wide experience has been of great assistance in instructing other members of the squadron. He is a most valuable member of aircraft crew.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flying Officer Ronald Charles ETHERIDGE (138470), R.A.F.V.R., 207 Sqn.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

803492 Flight Sergeant David BRYDON, A.A.F., 207 Sqn.

This officer and airman were mid-upper and rear gunners respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Stuttgart one night in July, 1944. During the operation they sighted an enemy fighter closing in on a disabled aircraft of the bombing force. Flying Officer Etheridge and Flight Sergeant Brydon immediately opened fire. Their bullets struck the enemy aircraft which fell to the ground where it exploded. Ten minutes later they engaged another fighter and caused its destruction. Very soon afterwards, yet a third enemy aircraft closed in. Co-operating splendidly, Flying Officer Etheridge and his co-gunner opened fire. Their bullets again found their mark. The enemy aircraft burst into flames, fell to the ground and exploded. These members of aircraft crew defended their aircraft with exceptional skill and coolness. Their achievement was worthy of the highest praise.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1350204 Flight Sergeant Ernest Frederick PENNIE, R.A.F.V.R., 603 Sqn.

Flight Sergeant Pennie has displayed commendable skill and courage in air operations. In July, 1944, he took part in an attack on an enemy convoy. In the fight considerable anti-aircraft fire was faced. Flight Sergeant Pennie was wounded and his aircraft was hit repeatedly. Nevertheless, this gallant pilot pressed home his attack, obtaining hits on a ship.

519071 Flight Sergeant James George Antony TRUSTY, R.A.F., 138 Sqn.

Flight Sergeant Trusty has taken part in very many operations as air gunner over areas heavily defended by the enemy. He has consistently displayed keenness and willingness to operate and has on several occasions been instrumental in preventing damage to his aircraft. His courage and devotion to duty have been most commendable.

1317608 Flight Sergeant Rowland Thomas WILLIAMS, R.A.F.V.R., 65 Sqn.

In air operations this airman has displayed skill, courage and devotion to duty in keeping with the best traditions of the Royal Air Force.

Can/R.208596 Sergeant Paul BURTON, R.C.A.F., 419 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Can/R.197168 Sergeant William Frank MANN, R.C.A.F., 419 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

As rear and mid-upper gunners respectively these airmen have participated in very many sorties and have displayed notable determination and devotion to duty throughout. On several occasions they have driven off enemy aircraft and, in so doing, have displayed great coolness and co-operation. One night in June, 1944, when returning from an operation against Acheres, they shot down a Junkers 88.

Can/R.215210 Sergeant John Ernest FITZGERALD, R.C.A.F., 166 Sqn.

This airman has participated in many sorties as a rear gunner. He has displayed the greatest

keenness and has proved himself to be a most dependable member of aircraft crew. One night in August, 1944, Sergeant Fitzgerald participated in a mine-laying mission. Shortly after leaving the target area, this gunner sighted a Junkers 88. He opened fire and his first burst struck the enemy aircraft which went into a steep dive with both engines on fire. On more than one occasion his vigilance and good shooting have contributed materially to the safe return of his aircraft.

2221459 Sergeant Sidney Francis FRY, R.A.F.V.R., 90 Sqn.

One night in August, 1944, Sergeant Fry was mid-upper gunner in an aircraft detailed to attack a target in Brunswick. After the target had been successfully bombed, the aircraft was attacked and damaged by an enemy fighter. The rear gunner was killed and Sergeant Fry was seriously wounded in the leg. Although suffering great pain from his injury, this airman remained in his turret and gave his pilot concise directions in order to evade further combat. It was not until base was nearly reached that Sergeant Fry revealed the severity of his wound. Shortly after the aircraft had landed, it was found necessary to amputate his left leg below the knee. His courage, fortitude and devotion to duty was of a high order.

1860066 Sergeant Harold Oxspring LOWBRIDGE, R.A.F.V.R., 300 Sqn.

One night in July 1944, Sergeant Lowbridge was mid-upper gunner of an aircraft detailed to attack Stuttgart. En route, he sighted an enemy fighter. He gave his pilot clear and concise directions which enabled him to manoeuvre the aircraft into an advantageous position. Sergeant Lowbridge then opened fire and with his first burst of fire shot the fighter down in flames. On the return journey the aircraft was again attacked by another enemy fighter, but this gunner again co-operated well with his pilot and the enemy aircraft was evaded. Sergeant Lowbridge has invariably displayed great courage and determination and his keenness and ability as an air gunner have been of a high order.

Can/R.193667 Sergeant Thomas JERRY, R.C.A.F., 428 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

As mid-upper gunner this airman has participated in many operational missions. He has invariably displayed the finest qualities of courage and determination and his devotion to duty has been unflinching.

1605081 Sergeant Ralph Hubert NIXON, R.A.F.V.R., 150 Sqn.

One night in July, 1944, Sergeant Nixon was wireless operator of an aircraft detailed for a mine laying mission. On the outward flight the aircraft was attacked and severely damaged by anti-aircraft fire. Sergeant Nixon was badly wounded in the arm and leg and his captain and navigator also received severe wounds. Nevertheless, the attack was pressed home with great determination and the mines successfully laid in the correct position. Concealing from his captain the severity of his injuries, this airman calmly continued his duties. Despite considerable pain and loss of blood he made adjustments to his wireless apparatus, which had sustained damage. Throughout the return flight he worked diligently and obtained several bearings which enabled his captain to determine his position. Sergeant Nixon has completed numerous sorties and has displayed an exceptional degree of courage, fortitude and devotion to duty.

*Air Ministry, 3rd October, 1944.*

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

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant Philip Henry Garne WINTLE, D.F.C. (63803), R.A.F.V.R., No. 140 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Wing Commander Gerard John Christopher PAUL (05164), R.A.F., No. 98 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Kenneth FISHER, A.F.C. (108959), R.A.F.V.R., No. 180 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Arthur Gill GARDNER (101571), R.A.F.V.R., No. 613 Squadron.