

Displaying great coolness, Sergeant Skerritt gave his pilot excellent evading directions and afterwards delivered a burst of fire which struck the enemy aircraft, causing its destruction. Shortly after turning for home another fighter closed in but it was evaded. Some few minutes later, yet a third enemy aircraft attacked but Sergeant Skerritt drove it off. This airman displayed commendable skill and resolution throughout this successful sortie.

*Air Ministry, 23rd February, 1945.*

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

*Bar to Distinguished Service Order.*

*Acting Wing Commander.*

Anthony Desmond Joseph LOVELL, D.S.O., D.F.C. (40402), R.A.F.O.

*Distinguished Service Order.*

*Acting Wing Commander.*

Charles Leopold Walker STEWART, A.F.C. (40646), R.A.F.O., 255 Sqn.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

*Acting Squadron Leaders.*

Alan DUNNING (105187), R.A.F.V.R., 614 Sqn.  
Arthur Harry JUPP (108022), R.A.F.V.R., 43 Sqn.  
Peter Wilson LOVELL (42351), R.A.F., 260 Sqn.

*Flight Lieutenants.*

Douglas Walter Charles ENGLAND (133220), R.A.F.V.R., 260 Sqn  
Maurice William SMYTH (130926), R.A.F.V.R. 253 Sqn.  
Charles Trevor STIMPSON (129663), R.A.F.V.R., 601 Sqn.

*Acting Flight Lieutenants.*

John FEELY (148280), R.A.F.V.R., 70 Sqn.  
Colin FISHER, D.F.M. (245169), R.A.F.V.R., 70 Sqn.  
John Wilfred PATTERSON (157148), R.A.F.V.R., 253 Sqn.  
John Marston RALPH (171223), R.A.F.V.R., 37 Sqn.  
William Joseph RICHINGS (157850), R.A.F.V.R., 70 Sqn.

*Flying Officers.*

John Patrick Lewen SHARP (162286), R.A.F.V.R., 178 Sqn.  
Frederick Leonard SIMPSON (156409), R.A.F.V.R., 70 Sqn.  
Alfred William James SMITHERS (178944), R.A.F.V.R., 37 Sqn.  
Henry WHELDON (151690), R.A.F.V.R., 614 Sqn.

*Pilot Officers.*

William Trotter Pringle JOHNSTON (188445), R.A.F.V.R., 148 Sqn.  
William Dudley Claude PRATT (184884), R.A.F.V.R., 70 Sqn.  
John Cameron WORDIE (188414), R.A.F.V.R., 70 Sqn.

*Warrant Officer.*

Charles Mortimer HALL (1349894), R.A.F.V.R., 148 Sqn.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

*Flight Sergeants.*

1614764 Geoffrey Barnard BRIGGS, R.A.F.V.R., 614 Sqn.  
1623161 John HORSFORD, R.A.F.V.R., 272 Sqn. (since deceased) with effect from 5th September, 1944.  
1670322 Thomas MERRICK, R.A.F.V.R., 37 Sqn.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

*Flight Lieutenant.*

William SIMPSON (Aus.409757), 614 Sqn.

*Flying Officers.*

Allen David LACKEY (Aus.413613), 683 Sqn.  
Robert Peter MCMILLAN (Aus.406220), 55 Sqn.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

*Flight Lieutenant.*

Walter Arnott IRWIN (Can/J.12868), 614 Sqn.

*Flying Officer.*

James Robert McLAUGHLIN (Can/J.85328), 683 Sqn.

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND AIR FORCE.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

*Acting Squadron Leader.*

Brian Maurice O'CONNOR (N.Z.412261), 70 Sqn.

SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE.

*Distinguished Service Order.*

*Lieutenant-Colonel.*

Richard Adrian BLACKWELL, D.F.C. (103017V), 24 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

*Lieutenants.*

Johannes Hendrik KRUGER (32878V), 601 Sqn.  
John LEWIS (542562V), 70 Sqn.  
Eric James Hugh McTEER (329207V), 70 Sqn.  
Peter Donald POTE (209544V), 601 Sqn.

*Second Lieutenant.*

Neville BAYLEY (26821V), 40 Sqn.

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

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