

always been evident and in attacks on strongly-defended targets, Squadron Leader Darville has shown a high degree of skill and courage. On several occasions his aircraft has been damaged by anti-aircraft fire but Squadron Leader Darville has always pressed home his attacks and returned safely to base. His fine qualities have been well reflected in the operational efficiency of his crew.

Acting Flying Officer Thomas DUTTON (184934), R.A.F.V.R., 192 Sqn.  
Warrant Officer Frank COULTON (1026583), R.A.F.V.R., 192 Sqn.

Flying Officer Dutton and Warrant Officer Coulton were pilot and wireless operator respectively in an aircraft detailed for a sortie over Bohlem. On the return flight one engine failed. Some air speed was lost. Later, as the aircraft straggled behind the main bomber force, it was attacked by an enemy fighter. For more than an hour the enemy persisted and, in all, made 15 attacks. But Flying Officer Dutton manoeuvred with great skill and thus prevented the attacker from closing in. After the engagement had terminated, Flying Officer Dutton flew the damaged aircraft to base. This officer displayed superb skill, great coolness and courage. Warrant Officer Coulton also displayed a high degree of gallantry and devotion to duty, throughout the whole of a harassing period. He obtained excellent photographs which provided much valuable information.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1826205 Sergeant Allan GIBB, R.A.F.V.R., 75 (N.Z.) Sqn.

This airman was flight engineer in an aircraft detailed to attack Cologne in March, 1945. When nearing the target the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and sustained much damage. Sergeant Gibb was severely wounded in the leg. The injury bled profusely. Nevertheless, this airman applied himself to the task of feathering the propeller of the damaged starboard engine without thought for his own welfare. It was then that other members of the crew became aware of his plight and gave him first aid. Although forced to lie on the floor of the aircraft, Sergeant Gibb insisted on remaining near his station in order to advise another member of the crew with regard to the various engineering duties to be performed. This airman set a fine example of courage and devotion to duty.

*Air Ministry, 27th April, 1945.*

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

*Distinguished Service Order.*

*Acting Group Captain.*

George folliott POWELL-SHEDDEN, D.F.C., R.A.F.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

*Flight Lieutenants.*

David Dunbar CARROW (121259), R.A.F.V.R., 298 Sqn.  
Robert Armfield WIGELSWORTH (133363), R.A.F.V.R., 29 Sqn.

*Flying Officers.*

Stanley Thorpe BLOOMFIELD (187110), R.A.F.V.R., 29 Sqn.  
John Thomas Gordon DAVIES (184506), R.A.F.V.R., 298 Sqn.  
Douglas Charles EVA (147195), R.A.F.V.R., 165 Sqn.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

*Flight Lieutenant.*

William Robert BENNETT (Aus.414189), 453 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

*Flight Lieutenant.*

Donald Aikins MACFADYEN, D.F.C. (Can/J.3103), 406 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

*Flight Lieutenant.*

Donald Allan Blake SMILEY (Can/J.23876), 64 Sqn.

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

*Air Ministry, 27th April, 1945.*

The KING has granted unrestricted permission for the wearing of the undermentioned decoration conferred upon the personnel indicated in recognition of valuable services rendered in connection with the war:—

CONFERRED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

*Air Medal.*

*Flight Lieutenant.*

Gilbert Rex WARRINGTON (Can/J.20446), R.C.A.F.

*Flying Officers.*

John Austin NICHOLLS (N.Z.413463), R.N.Z.A.F.  
Robert Donald SAUNDERS (186489), R.A.F.V.R.

*Pilot Officers.*

Harold McCONVILLE (Aus.422630), R.A.A.F.  
Stephen Thompson WELLS (186941), R.A.F.V.R. (since missing).

*Warrant Officer.*

Robert DALTON (1074412), R.A.F.V.R.

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