

Italy. Whilst over the target intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered and Lieutenant Wood's aircraft was repeatedly hit, sustaining much damage. His observer and wireless operator were killed and his air gunner was wounded. Lieutenant Wood himself was wounded in the hands, the thigh and the legs. Although his wounds were bleeding freely, he maintained control of his extensively damaged aircraft and flew it safely to base, where he effected a masterly landing with the undercarriage retracted. In most harassing circumstances, this gallant officer displayed outstanding fortitude and determination, setting an example worthy of the highest praise.

Pilot Officer Kenneth Hamilton DEMPSTER (161354), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 10 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Dempster has completed many operational sorties as an air bomber. He has consistently displayed high skill, whilst his determination to inflict the greatest destruction on the enemy's industrial objectives has been worthy of high praise. Despite the heaviest opposition from the enemy's defences, this officer has displayed outstanding keenness for operational duties which has been an example to others.

Pilot Officer Robert Keith METHERAL (Can/J.18989), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 419 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed many sorties and has set a fine example of skill, courage and devotion to duty. His determination to complete his missions successfully has always been evident. This was well illustrated on a recent occasion when detailed to attack Leipzig. On the outward journey with the target many miles distant, one of the bomber's engines failed. Although some height was lost, Pilot Officer Metheral went on to make a successful attack and afterwards returned safely to base. On another sortie his aircraft was subjected to fighter interference at five different periods, but this did not prevent him from completing his mission successfully.

Acting Warrant Officer Sydney Antonie LUYK (N.Z.415332), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 90 Squadron.

One night in November, 1943, Warrant Officer Luyk piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin. A few minutes after successfully bombing the target his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. The tail section, including the rudder controls, was damaged and the rear turret was rendered unserviceable. Another hit rendered one of the engines useless. Displaying great skill and coolness, Warrant Officer Luyk succeeded in regaining control of the damaged aircraft and afterwards flew it back to this country. This pilot has taken part in many sorties and his example of skill, determination and devotion to duty has won great praise.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Pilot Officer Gerald Peter Robert BOND (149966), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 156 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Saville Hercules MOON (N.Z.412348), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 156 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1432425 Flight Sergeant Ronald UNDERWOOD, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 156 Squadron.

One night in December, 1943, Pilot Officers Bond and Moon and Flight Sergeant Underwood were pilot, mid-upper and rear gunners respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Frankfurt. Shortly after successfully bombing the target, the aircraft was attacked by a fighter but excellent co-operation between Pilot Officer Bond and his gunners enabled him to evade the enemy aircraft. About half an hour later, the bomber was attacked by a Junkers 88 and was repeatedly hit by the enemy's bullets. One engine was set on fire and a petrol tank was pierced; other damage was also sustained. Early in the fight, Pilot Officer Moon was badly wounded. A bullet penetrated his back and emerged through the chest, causing paralysis in the left arm and in the side. Nevertheless, displaying a fine spirit, he refrained from reporting his injury and remained for a time in his turret and tried as best he could to bring his guns into action. Meanwhile, Flight Sergeant Underwood fought with great resolution. Although two of his guns became unserviceable he succeeded in driving off the attacker. Shortly afterwards another fighter

was encountered but Pilot Officer Bond skilfully evaded it and afterwards flew the damaged aircraft to base. In most hazardous circumstances this pilot displayed skill, courage and determination of a high order and his efforts were well supported by his gallant gunners, whose fine fighting spirit deserved much praise.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

N.Z.404049 Flight Sergeant John Robert BERRY, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 284 Squadron.

In September, 1943, this airman was a member of the crew of an aircraft engaged on an air/sea rescue operation. During the effort the aircraft was attacked by 2 fighters and was hit by cannon shells below the water line. Displaying commendable resource, Flight Sergeant Berry covered the holes with his hands so that a take-off from the sea could be effected before the aircraft became swamped. This airman has invariably displayed great keenness and determination.

Can/R.120945 Flight Sergeant Elmer John TROTTER, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 101 Squadron.

One night in December, 1943, Flight Sergeant Trotter was pilot of an aircraft which attacked Berlin. It was his fourth operational flight. Just after the bombs had been released over the target the aircraft was severely hit by fire from the ground defences and, being thrown completely out of control, dived down towards the target. Flight Sergeant Trotter ordered his crew to put on their parachutes, but displaying magnificent skill and coolness he was able to regain control of the bomber, to find that part of the starboard mainplane had been shot to pieces and that the aircraft had scarcely any aileron control. Other damage had also been sustained. Later, whilst endeavouring to gain height he was attacked by an enemy fighter. By skilful piloting Flight Sergeant Trotter, evaded his adversary but only after the bomber's port outer engine had been damaged. This airman then flew the severely damaged aircraft to base where he made a successful landing at the second attempt. In bringing his crew and aircraft back to this country under such harassing and difficult circumstances, Flight Sergeant Trotter displayed high courage and fortitude.

1439990 Acting Flight Sergeant William Darby COATES, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 97 Squadron.

This airman was the pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin one night in December, 1943. It was his first operational sortie. Whilst over the target his aircraft was damaged, the front turret and amidships of the bomber being set on fire. Flight Sergeant Coates immediately dived in an effort to put out the flames. These were eventually extinguished and height was regained. Some time later the aircraft was hit by shrapnel which broke off the propeller tips of the starboard inner engine. One of the flying fragments pierced the fuselage and severed the hydraulic pipe lines and another portion hit and damaged the tail plane; the engine had to be feathered. A second engine was also damaged and had to be feathered. The aircraft was losing height rapidly as the enemy coast was neared and the situation became serious. Flight Sergeant Coates succeeded in maintaining height at 5,000 feet, however, and eventually reached this country, effecting a masterly landing at an airfield. In harassing circumstances this airman displayed great skill, coolness and resolution.

1392381 Sergeant Roy James COOK, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 625 Squadron.

This airman was the pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack Frankfurt one night in December, 1943. From the very beginning of his mission, one of the bomber's engines partially lost power. Nevertheless, Sergeant Cook held to his course. When crossing the enemy coast, flames were bursting from the exhaust manifold. Although he was unable to climb satisfactorily, Sergeant Cook persisted in his mission and eventually pressed home a successful attack. This airman has undertaken numerous sorties and has always displayed praiseworthy skill and resolution.

1577546 Sergeant William Ryder DICKINSON, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 419 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

One night in November, 1943, this airman was the navigator of an aircraft detailed to attack Frankfurt. During the operation the aircraft was