

Air Ministry,
29th July, 1941.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following award in recognition of distinguished services:—

Distinguished Service Order.

Flight Lieutenant Harry BURTON (39965).

Air Ministry,
29th July, 1941.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy:—

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commander Edgar Norman RYDER, D.F.C. (39193), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 56 Squadron.

This officer has been on operations continually since the outbreak of war and has shown extraordinary powers of endurance. He has set a splendid example by his leadership and determination and has destroyed at least five and damaged other enemy aircraft.

Flight Lieutenant Charles Brian Fabris KINGCOME, D.F.C. (33319), No. 92 Squadron.

This officer has at all times displayed determination, judgment and courage and has set a very high standard to other pilots which has been reflected in the achievements of his squadron. He has now destroyed at least ten enemy aircraft and damaged many others.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Wing Commander David Francis William ATCHERLEY (05168), No. 25 Squadron.

This officer has carried out a large amount of operational flying at night, sometimes under adverse weather conditions. The efficiency of his squadron and the success it has had is due to Wing Commander Atcherley's drive, energy and leadership. He has destroyed three enemy aircraft at night.

Flight Lieutenant Hugh SPEKE (90223) Auxiliary Air Force, No. 604 Squadron.

This officer has been engaged on operational flying with this squadron continuously since the outbreak of war. He has carried out a considerable amount of operational flying at night and has flown in all kinds of weather with resource and skill. He has destroyed four and damaged at least two enemy aircraft at night.

Flying Officer Edward Dixon CREW (74700), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 604 Squadron.

This officer is a pilot of outstanding ability who has shown tenacity of purpose to engage the enemy which culminated in the destruction of two enemy aircraft in one night. He has now destroyed four and damaged at least a further four enemy aircraft at night.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader Reuben Pears WIDDOWSON (34256), No. 75 (N.Z.) Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

N.Z. 401221 Sergeant Allen Robert James BOX, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 75 (N.Z.) Squadron.

One night in July, 1941, Squadron Leader Widdowson and Sergeant Box were captain and rear gunner respectively of an aircraft which carried out a successful attack on Munster. On the return journey the aircraft was attacked by a Messerschmitt 110. In the ensuing action Sergeant Box fired a burst of 200 rounds, at point blank range, causing the attacker to turn away, and dive steeply towards the sea with its engine on fire and emitting trails of dense black smoke. Squadron Leader Widdowson's aircraft was severely damaged and a fire of considerable proportions had broken out on the starboard wing. Nevertheless, he refused to abandon the aircraft. Excellent crew control was displayed and tremendous efforts were made to subdue the fire. All loose articles were jettisoned and, despite reduced speed with gradual loss of height Squadron Leader Widdowson, with great skill, flew the aircraft to an aerodrome in this country and landed safely. This officer and airman displayed splendid courage, coolness and skill throughout. Both have completed numerous operational missions against the enemy.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Howard WAPLES (67021), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 21 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

539123 Flight Sergeant Frederic John PATTERSON, No. 21 Squadron.

746891 Sergeant Norman Joseph GIBLIN, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 21 Squadron.

In June, 1941, Flight Lieutenant Waples, Flight Sergeant Patterson and Sergeant Giblin were pilot, wireless operator air gunner and observer respectively of an aircraft which carried out a successful attack on Bremen. In spite of extremely adverse flying conditions, Sergeant Giblin's exceptional navigational skill enabled his pilot to reach the target which was bombed from a low level. On the return journey the aircraft was attacked by two enemy fighters, but Flight Sergeant Patterson, by his timely and accurate instructions, was instrumental in enabling the pilot to take successful avoiding action. When the aircraft was later attacked by three enemy fighters, Flight Sergeant Patterson destroyed one of them as well as greatly assisting his pilot again by giving him invaluable evasive instructions. In spite of damage sustained to the aircraft, Flight Lieutenant Waples, assisted by the splendid navigation of Sergeant Giblin, flew safely back to an aerodrome in this country where he successfully landed without injury to his crew. The success of the mission was due to the great determination displayed by this crew in the face of many difficulties.