

Acting Squadron Leader Howard Frizelle BURTON (33227), No. 616 Squadron.

This officer has led his squadron with commendable skill and coolness. He has participated in fifty-four sorties over enemy territory during which he has assisted in the destruction of two Messerschmitt 109s, probably destroyed a Heinkel III and damaged a further two enemy aircraft. Squadron Leader Burton has on all occasions proved an inspiration to his unit.

Flight Lieutenant Jack HAMLYN (40109), No. 250 Squadron.

In August, 1941, this officer was the leader of a formation of aircraft engaged on a defensive patrol of our ships sailing to Tobruk. The formation was attacked by some thirty Italian fighters but Flight Lieutenant Hamlyn, displaying resource and magnificent leadership kept his formation intact and frustrated all attempts of the enemy to bomb the convoy. On a previous occasion, Flight Lieutenant Hamlyn, whilst carrying out a low-flying attack in the Gambut area, was forced to land in enemy territory. With the help of friendly Arabs he was able to regain his unit after walking a distance of about eighty miles. Flight Lieutenant Hamlyn has destroyed two enemy aircraft.

Pilot Officer Clifford Percival RUDLAND (65998), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 263 Squadron.

This officer, who recently assumed command of his flight, has performed exceptionally fine work in the course of offensive operations against the enemy, including a determined attack on an enemy aerodrome, a successful attack on a wireless station and important operations carried out in the Cherbourg area. On one occasion he destroyed a Messerschmitt 109 which was taking off. On another occasion, Pilot Officer Rudland displayed great coolness and courage when engaging and destroying one of a vastly superior number of enemy fighters. In August, 1941, whilst leading a section on an offensive operation, he attacked an enemy aerodrome at almost ground level. Pilot Officer Rudland has displayed a high standard of leadership and courage.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Pilot Officer Leonard Charles GREGORY (60336), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 149 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

751750 Sergeant Walter BILLINGTON, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 149 Squadron.

One night in August, 1941, Pilot Officer Gregory and Sergeant Billington were captain and rear gunner respectively of an aircraft which was detailed to attack a target at Duisburg. Whilst flying through a large belt of searchlights in the target area the aircraft was attacked by an enemy fighter and sustained severe damage—the rear turret was put out of action, the wireless transmitter rendered unserviceable, the hydraulics hit and with other damage also received the aircraft became practically uncontrollable. The second pilot was seriously wounded and the observer cut on the head. A large fire broke

out near the rear turret, occupied by Sergeant Billington, enveloping it in flames. Inter-communication was impossible and, in the circumstances, Sergeant Billington, completely unaware of anything that was happening in the front of the aircraft, might have been justified in thinking that the aircraft was going down in flames. Undaunted, he got out of his turret and, regardless of the fact that he was drenched with oil, attempted to extinguish the fire with his hands. He then obtained his parachute from the turret and used it to smother the flames. Later, Sergeant Billington was able to secure a fire extinguisher with which he finally put out the fire. In the face of great difficulties Pilot Officer Gregory flew the aircraft back to this country and made a safe landing. Throughout, Pilot Officer Gregory showed great determination and fortitude while Sergeant Billington displayed great courage and a complete disregard for his own safety. Both have previously participated in numerous operational missions.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

519308 Sergeant Reginald Sydney COLVIN, No. 38 Squadron.

One night in August, 1941, this airman pilot carried out an attack on shipping in Tripoli harbour from a height of 1,500 feet. Defying an intense barrage, Sergeant Colvin secured hits on two ships, setting them both on fire. The flames acted as beacons to following aircraft thus enabling them successfully to attack targets in the harbour. Sergeant Colvin has completed forty-six operational missions and has at all times displayed great skill, courage and determination.

96799 Air Sergeant Francois JOUBERT, South African Air Force, No. 24 Squadron.

In August, 1941, this airman was lower gunner of an aircraft which was attacked by six enemy fighters while returning from bombing an enemy aerodrome. As a result, part of the aircraft was set on fire while the top gunner was seriously wounded. Sergeant Joubert attempted to extinguish the fire but his efforts were unavailing. His captain by this time, had flown the aircraft over land and ordered the crew to abandon it but, as the intercommunication was out of action neither Sergeant Joubert nor his wounded comrade heard the instruction. On seeing the pilot and observer leaving the aircraft, Sergeant Joubert realised the position and immediately assisted his wounded comrade from his turret to the bottom escape hatch where the wounded gunner's parachute harness became entangled on the rear sight of a gun. Lifting the gun from its mounting, Sergeant Joubert dropped both gun and gunner through the hatch. While so doing, the fore-sight of the gun caught the ripcord of Sergeant Joubert's parachute causing it to open inside the aircraft. Gathering up the parachute in his arms, Sergeant Joubert then jumped, falling to within 1,000 feet of the ground before his parachute opened properly. Throughout Sergeant Joubert displayed remarkable coolness and great gallantry in assisting his badly wounded comrade to escape from the burning aircraft.