

night. One night in May, 1941, Squadron Leader Wheeler attacked and probably destroyed a Heinkel 111. The following night he damaged a Junkers 88, setting its port engine on fire. Throughout, Squadron Leader Wheeler has shown great devotion to duty and an intense desire to engage the enemy.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Arthur Avarne James SANDERS (33578), No. 7 Squadron.

One night in September, 1941, this officer was the captain of an aircraft detailed to attack Frankfurt. Unfavourable weather conditions prevailed throughout. Nevertheless, in a determined effort to complete his mission, Flight Lieutenant Sanders flew over the target area for nearly an hour until a break in the clouds occurred. A flare was then released and immediately the aircraft was held in a large concentration of searchlights and subjected to intense anti-aircraft fire. Although his aircraft was repeatedly hit, Flight Lieutenant Sanders pressed home his attack and successfully bombed his objective. This officer has participated in thirty-seven operational missions and has at all times displayed great courage and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Geoffrey Leonard HOWITT (81037), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 85 Squadron.

This officer has proved himself to be a determined and skilful night fighter pilot. He has destroyed two and severely damaged another hostile aircraft. Flying Officer Howitt has set a splendid example of keenness and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer James Edgar JOHNSON (83267), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 616 Squadron.

This officer has participated in forty-six operational sorties over enemy territory and has destroyed at least four hostile aircraft. Flying Officer Johnson has at all times shown great courage.

Pilot Officer George Gordon DUFF (89378), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 115 Squadron.

One night in September, 1941, this officer was the captain of an aircraft detailed to attack a target at Turin. On the outward journey, it became apparent that, owing to a technical fault, it was not possible to use the fuel in the reserve petrol tank. In spite of the long and difficult flight ahead, Pilot Officer Duff decided to continue his mission and, by skilful control of his engines, thus conserving his fuel, was able to reach and bomb his objective and return safely to base. On a previous occasion, Pilot Officer Duff successfully searched for a dinghy some eighty miles from the English coast. He flew over the position for three hours until he was relieved. This officer has carried out thirty operational missions and has displayed exceptional ability, keenness and courage throughout.

Pilot Officer Philip Whaley Ellis HEPPPELL (86370), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 616 Squadron.

This officer has participated in thirty-three operational sweeps over enemy territory. He has destroyed two and damaged a number of

other enemy aircraft. Throughout, Pilot Officer Hepppell has supported his leader with great courage and skill.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

N.Z.401295 Sergeant Jeffery George WEST, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 616 Squadron.

This airman has participated in thirty-four operational sorties over enemy territory and has at all times displayed courage and determination. Sergeant West has destroyed at least two enemy aircraft.

*Air Ministry,*

30th September, 1941.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

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

*Air Force Cross.*

Wing Commander Edward Mortlock DONALDSON, D.S.O. (32043).

Wing Commander Richard Lindsay WALLACE (26147).

Acting Wing Commander John Charles McGregor LUNN (37067).

Squadron Leader Leslie Thomas Godard BARBER (28260).

Squadron Leader Wilfred Bennett BEALE (90240), Auxiliary Air Force (since deceased).

Squadron Leader Arthur Donald BENNETT (24140).

Squadron Leader John Fergus MCKENNA (70430), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

Squadron Leader Richard Julian Paget PRICHARD (36109).

Squadron Leader Marcus ROBINSON (90161), Auxiliary Air Force.

Squadron Leader James Hogarth SLATER (33174).

Acting Squadron Leader Douglas Warnes MORRISH (29075).

Acting Squadron Leader Adolphus William WHITTA (22005).

Flight Lieutenant William James ALINGTON (70006), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

Flight Lieutenant Frank Edward Walter BIRCHFIELD (39777), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

Flight Lieutenant Harry Alfred George COMERFORD (24051).

Flight Lieutenant William Hugh Laird DUDLEY (70910), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

Flight Lieutenant John Guthrie FLETCHER (70798), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

Flight Lieutenant Harry Albert LOVE (70409), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

Flight Lieutenant Russell Merriman MACKENZIE (40245).

Flight Lieutenant Richard George MADDOX (40312).

Flight Lieutenant Thomas Frederick STEELE (70645), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

Flight Lieutenant Norman STONE (90172), Auxiliary Air Force.

Flight Lieutenant Ronald Edwin WATTS (27069).

Acting Flight Lieutenant Arthur Bertie JONES (43173).

Acting Flight Lieutenant George Edward LILLYWHITE, A.F.M. (43839).