

observed an aircraft, which was in difficulties, coming in to land. It crashed and immediately burst into flames. Despite the imminent danger of ammunition and petrol tanks exploding, Leading Aircraftman Jenkins and Aircraftman 1st Class Poppleton rushed into the burning wreckage and succeeded in extricating the wounded and semi-conscious pilot and in moving him to safety. Their prompt and gallant action saved the pilot's life.

755120 Aircraftman 1st Class Michael Nunn, Royal Air Force.

On the 19th August, 1942, Aircraftman 1st Class Nunn was wireless operator in a High Speed Launch. During operations the launch was severely attacked by enemy aircraft. He remained at his post until his wireless equipment was shot away and on going on deck, found he was the only member of the crew uninjured, the other members being either killed or wounded. He showed great presence of mind by first endeavouring to stop the engines until he was almost overcome by fumes. He then ran to the wheel and continued to steer the launch for the British coast until some time later he was taken aboard another launch. Shortly afterwards both launches were sunk by the enemy. Aircraftman Nunn has served with High Speed Launches since December, 1941, and has carried out numerous operations with skill and efficiency.

1113512 Aircraftman 2nd Class Frank Brown, Royal Air Force.

996631 Aircraftman 2nd Class Thomas Welsh, Royal Air Force.

H.M. Minesweeper "Changteh" sailed from Singapore in February, 1942, carrying 40 officers and men of the Royal Air Force, among others, and was sunk the next day by air attack, with heavy loss of life. Forty men escaped in the only undamaged boat, the proper complement of which was 22. After being nearly swamped in heavy weather, they reached land near the mouth of a river a few days later, but found no fresh water. Thirty survivors were picked up next day. Aircraftmen Brown and Welsh never faltered throughout a severe ordeal and set a magnificent example to all the rest.

1282121 Aircraftman 2nd Class Denis Arthur Wellesley, Viscount Dangan, Royal Air Force.

In August, 1942, a refueller was being started up by two members of its crew, when there was a terrific explosion, and it burst into flames. There were four refuellers moored in pairs, bow to stern. One member of the crew was blown into the water and the other was killed. Aircraftman Wellesley rushed to the refuelling pier, dived into the water, in which there are barracuda and alligators, swam to the two refuellers that were not alight and immediately commenced casting off. He had nearly completed his task when reinforcements arrived. They were inspired by his example and the two refuellers were got away safely from the conflagration. Aircraftman Wellesley displayed courage and steadfastness of a high standard.

*Air Ministry, 29th December, 1942.*

#### 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 Flight Lieutenant Dallas Wilbur SCHMIDT, D.F.C. (Can./J.7336), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 227 Squadron.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, this officer has completed many sorties. In an engagement in November, 1942, he destroyed 2 Junkers 52's and assisted in the destruction of a Dornier 24. His aircraft was hit in some 30 places by return fire and the port engine set alight but he succeeded in extinguishing the flames and flew the damaged aircraft to base landing it safely in difficult circumstances. Some days later, he shot down a Junkers 52, and shortly afterwards he destroyed a C.R.42. In attacks on enemy shipping, Flight Lieutenant Schmidt has achieved notable success. He has at all times displayed outstanding skill and gallantry.

Pilot Officer Harry Woodward DONKERSLEY, D.F.C. (Can./J.8203), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 69 Squadron.

In sorties against enemy shipping this officer has achieved much success. One night in November, 1942, he captained an aircraft detailed to drop flares over the Italian naval units and accomplished his task successfully. Several nights later he attacked and sank a small merchant vessel. On another night in December, 1942, he participated in an operation against an important enemy convoy in the Mediterranean. As a result, other air and surface forces were enabled to strike successfully; two merchant vessels were sunk and 1 badly damaged. Pilot Officer Donkersley is a courageous leader who has displayed great initiative in the face of the enemy.

##### *Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Squadron Leader Kendrick Herbert SALUSBURY-HUGHES (70597), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 23 Squadron.

This officer has completed many sorties, involving attacks on factories, marshalling yards and enemy airfields. Squadron Leader Salusbury-Hughes, who has always displayed great keenness, has destroyed 3 enemy aircraft.

Flight Lieutenant Norman Patrick Watkins HANCOCK (42122), No. 250 Squadron.

In November, 1942, this officer led the squadron some 200 miles in bad weather to intercept an enemy air transport convoy. The formation arrived at precisely the right time and, in the ensuing engagement 7 of the transports were shot down and 5 were destroyed on the ground. Flight Lieutenant Hancock, whose leadership was outstanding, shot down a Heinkel 111 and destroyed 3 aircraft on the ground. On another occasion he participated in an attack on German E boats which were operating against a harbour in our hands. During the engagement 4 E boats were sunk, one of them by Flight Lieutenant Hancock. This officer, who formerly fought in France and in the Battle of Britain, has always displayed great skill and determination.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Donald Charles BEATON (Aus. 406370), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 459 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has displayed exceptional courage and initiative. One morning in September, 1942, he attacked an enemy destroyer near the North African coast. Despite intense opposing fire he pressed home his attack, obtaining hits which caused a large explosion followed by a fire. In air combat, Flight Lieutenant Beaton has destroyed 2 enemy aircraft. His excellent leadership and unflinching devotion to duty have set a fine example.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Leonard William Henry WELCH (61463), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 23 Squadron.

Flying Officer Walter Richard SHUTTLEWORTH (110972), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 23 Squadron.

In December, 1942, Flight Lieutenant Welch and Flying Officer Shuttleworth, as pilot and navigator of aircraft respectively, undertook a sortie into enemy territory. Despite adverse weather, success was achieved. At least 2 enemy aircraft were destroyed. The skilful execution of the operation reflects great credit on the efforts of these two officers. Both Flight Lieutenant Welch and Flying Officer Shuttleworth have completed numerous sorties over enemy territory.

Pilot Officer Norman John Lewis (115609), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 227 Squadron.

As navigator, this officer has taken part in several sorties. On a recent occasion he participated in an engagement against a convoy of enemy transport aircraft escorted by fighters. During the combat, his pilot was severely wounded. On the return flight, Pilot Officer Lewis attended to his wounded comrade, who almost fainted several times through loss of blood. Pilot Officer Lewis also rendered valuable assistance in flying the aircraft back to base where a safe landing was made in darkness. He has invariably displayed high courage and resource.

##### *Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1004963 Flight Sergeant Andrew Burt CAMPBELL, No. 227 Squadron.

This officer is a skilful and courageous navigator who has taken part in many sorties. In