

opposition from the ground defences. On one occasion, after setting course for base, he returned to the target area and dived to 3000 feet to release a large bomb, which had not released in his first attack, on a heavy gun position. Squadron Leader Craigie has attacked many enemy concentrations. On one occasion he descended to 700 feet to rake a column of tanks and vehicles with machine gun fire. A large fire was started and much confusion ensued. On another occasion he disorganised a convoy of motor transport by his bombing. Squadron Leader Craigie has invariably displayed skill and courage of a high order. His untiring efforts and inspiring example have been reflected in the fine fighting qualities of his squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant John Russell COLLINS (124617), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 3 Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of operational missions, including many sorties on which he has achieved considerable successes. On two occasions he has attacked and damaged an enemy aircraft whilst flying over enemy airfields. On other occasions he has inflicted damage on three barges and four locomotives. Flight Lieutenant Collins is a fearless and skilful pilot.

Flying Officer John Robert BALDWIN (122337), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 609 Squadron.

This officer has participated in numerous sorties, invariably displaying great courage and operational efficiency. This was amply demonstrated during a sortie one day in January, 1943, when he attacked a formation of three enemy aircraft. In his first attack, Flying Officer Baldwin shot down the leading aircraft of the hostile formation. Following this success he destroyed another of the formation before his own aircraft was hit in one of the wings. When the third enemy fighter attempted to attack from the rear, Flying Officer Baldwin out-maneuvred the attacker and shot it down. On another occasion, during a sortie over Belgium, he damaged four locomotives.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Aus. 404360 Flight Sergeant Billy McFADDEN, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 69 Squadron.

Flight Sergeant McFadden has taken part in many sorties over the Mediterranean Sea. He is highly efficient, while his determination to achieve success has been outstanding. One night in November, 1942, he successfully attacked an enemy merchant ship in the face of heavy opposing fire from its escorting destroyer. Flight Sergeant McFadden has played a good part in attacks on the enemy's supply line between Italy and North Africa.

Can./R.78542 Flight Sergeant Robert Leslie SPENCE, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 40 Squadron.

This airman has completed numerous operational missions, 12 of them as captain of aircraft. In October, 1942, during an attack on Tobruk, his aircraft was badly damaged by anti-aircraft fire and he and his crew were forced to abandon it near El Aden. Flight Sergeant Spence, with two of his comrades, set out on the long trek to our lines at El Alamein. One of the party was compelled to drop behind but, for 28 days Flight Sergeant Spence and his companion continued the journey. They successfully evaded enemy columns and camps and were eventually saved by a British patrol. Since reaching safety, Flight Sergeant Spence has participated in four attacks on targets at Tunis and Sousse. This airman has displayed great courage, fortitude and devotion to duty.

933225 Sergeant Donald Gleeson CLARKE, No. 14 Squadron.

As wireless operator/air gunner, Sergeant Clarke has performed much highly meritorious work. He has often acted as fire controller in the leading aircraft of bomber formations, and has shown great ability. During an intruder sortie over Crete in June, 1942, his skilful use of his wireless apparatus contributed materially to the great success of the operation. On another occasion, in November, 1942, the aircraft in which he was flying was damaged by enemy action and a fire broke out near the rear tanks. Sergeant Clarke immediately attempted to quell the flames with an extinguisher. When it was exhausted he finally beat out the fire with his bare hands. This airman's fine record is worthy of high praise.

Aus. 407319 Sergeant Leonard Alexander EINSAAR, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 14 Squadron.

Sergeant Einsaar is a skilful and determined pilot who has completed many sorties. In November, 1942, during a reconnaissance over the sea, he saw two enemy convoys, and reported their positions accurately. Some days later, he executed a low level attack on some barges in Benghazi harbour, setting two of them on fire. He skilfully accomplished the return flight of 700 miles to base, being the first member of his squadron to achieve this in the type of aircraft he was flying. During a sortie in December, 1942, his aircraft was severely damaged when attacked by enemy fighters. When his aircraft could no longer be flown, whilst over the sea, 50 miles out from Benghazi, Sergeant Einsaar skilfully came down on the water. The aircraft caught fire but he managed to get clear of the blazing wreckage and some 3½ hours later was picked up by a naval launch. This airman has invariably displayed courage and fortitude of a high order.

Can./R.86106 Sergeant Stanley John KERMACHAN, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 252 Squadron.

Sergeant Kermachan is a first class pilot with a fine operational record. He has participated in very many sorties, involving attacks on shipping and transport in the battle area, and inflicted much loss and damage. In addition he has destroyed four enemy aircraft. On one occasion, during an engagement in which he shot down a Junkers 87, his own aircraft was badly damaged but he flew it safely to base. This airman has displayed courage and determination of a high order.

Air Ministry, 26th February, 1943.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

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

Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Squadron Leader Arthur William SOUTHALL (43075), No. 179 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Arthur Patrick SMALLMAN (88043), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 202 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Wing Commander Harold Thomas SUTTON (37055), No. 614 Squadron.

Squadron Leader George Hassall NELSON-EDWARDS (74355), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 93 Squadron.

Squadron Leader Dennis SECRETAN (41746), No. 242 Squadron.

Squadron Leader William Blakeney WOODS (Can/C.1653), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 400 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Laurence Grimes BEDFORD (87662), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 81 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Basil Philip Waterlow CLAFIN (43541).

Flight Lieutenant Derek Nigel FORDE (41526), No. 72 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Frank Harvey STEPHENSON (60556), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 608 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Arthur Charles MILLER (119169), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 13 Squadron.

Flying Officer Frederick Alan AIRMAN (Can/J.7460), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 154 Squadron.

Flying Officer Derek Andrew Gustav BLAKELEY (87432), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 500 Squadron.

Flying Officer Emelyn Thomas JOHN (47024), No. 114 Squadron.

Flying Officer Ivan Reid MITCHELL (N.Z.404921), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 500 Squadron.

Flying Officer Harold Arthur POOLE (N.Z.40662), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 500 Squadron.

Flying Officer Anthony SCHOLEFIELD (61229), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 608 Squadron.

Flying Officer Ronald Frederick Chichele SHARMAN (101094), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 225 Squadron.

Flying Officer John Howard SIMPSON (117583), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 500 Squadron.