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*Air Ministry, 11th May, 1943.*

### 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:—

#### *Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Flight Lieutenant Allan Roy SCOTT (N.Z.414686). Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 90 Squadron.

This officer, who has completed numerous sorties, has invariably displayed great determination and devotion to duty throughout. On 1 occasion, whilst over Hamburg, his aircraft was hit and damaged by anti-aircraft fire but he flew the bomber back to base. One night in April, 1943, Flight Lieutenant Scott captained an aircraft detailed to attack Mannheim. When nearing the target area the bomber was attacked by 2 enemy fighters. One of the engines was damaged, while a flare became ignited in the flare chute. In spite of this, Flight Lieutenant Scott flew on to the target which he bombed successfully. Whilst still over the target area, the propeller and reduction gear of the damaged engine fell away and the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. Nevertheless, Flight Lieutenant Scott flew the damaged bomber back to this country. This officer has displayed great skill and courage.

#### *Distinguished Flying Medal.*

Aus.403499 Flight Sergeant Robert James CARSON, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 166 Squadron.

Flight Sergeant Carson, who has completed 24 sorties, is a determined and courageous captain, whose devotion to duty has set a praiseworthy example. This was well illustrated during a recent attack on Mannheim. Whilst over the target area his aircraft was illuminated by searchlights, but he skilfully evaded them to complete his attack from a low level. On the return flight the bomber was hit and severely damaged by anti-aircraft fire. Displaying great skill and resource, Flight Sergeant Carson flew the aircraft safely to base.

1174105 Flight Sergeant James Alfred HOATHER, No. 58 Squadron.

In April, 1943, this airman captained an aircraft detailed to search for a German merchant vessel, escorted by 4 destroyers and a number of aircraft. He successfully located the convoy, reporting the position, and then, in spite of the formidable opposition, continued to shadow it. Although his aircraft was repeatedly attacked by the enemy fighters he refused to be beaten off until his task was accomplished. This airman displayed great courage and tenacity of purpose throughout.

1319407 Sergeant Herbert Joseph Bromsgrove CANTER, No. 76 Squadron.

1114418 Sergeant Henry Ord ROBERTSON, No. 76 Squadron.

In December, 1942, Sergeants Canter and Robertson were navigator and wireless operator respectively of an aircraft engaged on an operational flight. In hazardous circumstances their exemplary conduct was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Royal Air Force.

1147867 Sergeant John COUGHLAN, No. 166 Squadron.

This airman has completed 18 sorties and displayed outstanding skill and determination. On one occasion, when detailed to attack Hamburg, he accomplished his task successfully in spite of extremely adverse weather. More recently, in an attack on Stuttgart, his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire whilst taking a photograph after bombing the target. A shell, which penetrated the bomb doors, destroyed the flying instruments. In spite of this, Sergeant Coughlan flew the aircraft home. He displayed great skill and courage in very trying circumstances.

1081751 Sergeant Eric John GROVES, No. 192 Squadron.

As wireless operator, this airman has participated in 43 operations, many of them of an important nature. By his skill, often in difficult circumstances, Sergeant Groves has contributed materially to the successes achieved. His example of courage, zeal and unswerving devotion to duty has proved inspiring.

N.Z.414709, Sergeant Gregory Francis WHITWELL, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 487 (N.Z.) Squadron.

In April, 1943, this airman was the pilot of 1 of a formation of bombers which attacked railway installations at Malines. Whilst making his bombing run, Sergeant Whitwell was severely wounded in the left arm by shrapnel, sustaining a compound fracture. Undaunted, he remained at the controls and executed a successful attack. Although in great pain and suffering from loss of blood, Sergeant Whitwell flew the bomber back to this country making a landing at an airfield near the coast. He displayed great courage and fortitude, setting an example worthy of the highest praise.

*Air Ministry, 11th May, 1943.*

### ROYAL AIR FORCE.

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

#### *Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Flight Lieutenant Charles Dugdale HARRIS-St. JOHN, D.F.C. (107809), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 140 Squadron.