

431477 Corporal Alice Holden, Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

One night in October, 1943, a Wellington aircraft crashed about 150 yards from the flying control room at an airfield. Corporal Holden who was on stand by duty as a radio telephone operator, immediately ran towards the burning wreckage. Just before she reached it the petrol tanks exploded and fragments were hurled near to her. In spite of this she continued on hearing cries for help and she ultimately discovered the rear gunner trapped in his turret and enveloped by the flames. After some difficulty Corporal Holden managed to open the escape door but the gunner, whose clothing and harness were burning, was unable to get clear unaided. Ignoring the danger from the exploding ammunition and the intense heat Corporal Holden persisted in her rescue efforts and eventually succeeded in dragging the airman clear of the aircraft and in escorting him to an ambulance. She displayed courage and devotion to duty of a very high standard and but for her gallant action the gunner's life would have been lost.

*Air Ministry, 14th March, 1944.*

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 Ernest Robert HERRALD (122125), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 51 Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties, involving attacks on a variety of strongly defended targets. In pressing home his attacks he has displayed great courage and determination; qualities which were well in evidence when he attacked Magdeburg recently. On the outward flight the bomber was attacked by a fighter. Owing to some defect, Flight Lieutenant Herral's gunners were unable to fire their guns to defend their aircraft. During the next half-hour the enemy attacked repeatedly but, each time, Flight Lieutenant Herral out-maneuvred his adversary. In the end the fighter was successfully evaded and Flight Lieutenant Herral continued to the target and bombed it. His skill and resource throughout this spirited action were worthy of the highest praise.

Flying Officer Denis Edward William GARVAN (Aus. 411770), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 136 Squadron.

This officer is a keen, courageous and resolute fighter and, within a short period has destroyed at least 4 enemy aircraft. In December, 1943, he took part in an engagement against a large formation of enemy aircraft, one of which he shot down. In two engagements some days later, Flying Officer Garvan destroyed 3 fighters. In the latter of these sorties, he was slightly wounded in the arm and leg and his aircraft sustained damage. In spite of this he flew safely to base.

Flying Officer Louis GREENBURGH (49803), Royal Air Force, No. 514 Squadron.

This officer was pilot and captain of an aircraft which attacked Berlin on a recent occasion. During the operation the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and sustained damage. Some petrol was lost but in spite of this, Flying Officer Greenburgh went on to make a successful attack. Before reaching England on the return flight the petrol supply became exhausted. Flying Officer Greenburgh brought his aircraft safely down on to the sea, however, and he and his crew got safely aboard the dinghy, from which they were rescued the following morning. Whilst they were adrift, Flying Officer Greenburgh did everything possible to cheer his crew, all of whom suffered severely through being buffeted by the heavy seas. Since then, this officer has made 2 more attacks on the German capital, pressing home his attacks with his usual thoroughness.

Flying Officer Wilbert Arley HEALEY (Can/J.21121), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 49 Squadron.

This officer has completed many sorties, including 10 attacks on the capital of the German Reich. On the last of these, the bomber was attacked by a fighter and sustained much damage. A large portion of one of the wings was shot away but, despite this, Flying Officer Healey flew back to

base. He is a most determined captain, whose fine fighting qualities and exceptional skill have set a fine example.

Flying Officer Gordon Herbert RUDRUM (156049), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 158 Squadron.

As flight engineer, this officer has participated in many sorties, including attacks on targets in the Ruhr area and others more distant. He has at all times displayed great determination and devotion to duty and proved himself to be a most dependable member of aircraft crew. His technical skill has contributed materially to the successes achieved.

Pilot Officer Arthur CAYGILL (53196), Royal Air Force, No. 51 Squadron.

This officer is a skilful and courageous captain of aircraft, whose determined efforts throughout the many sorties in which he has taken part have set a fine example. On one occasion, in an attack on Hanover, his aircraft was badly damaged in a fight with an enemy aircraft. Although his aircraft became difficult to control, Pilot Officer Caygill flew it to base and effected a safe landing. His keenness and devotion to duty have been most commendable.

Pilot Officer Michael Clifford FOSTER (156626), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 51 Squadron.

This officer has attacked many targets in Germany, including Berlin, Hamburg, Hanover and Leipzig. Throughout his tour he has displayed great skill and his determination to complete his tasks successfully has been most evident. On one occasion, during a sortie against Mannheim, his aircraft was severely damaged in an encounter with a fighter. One engine was put out of action, the starboard main-plane and the ailerons were damaged. A fire broke out in the starboard wing and burned for more than an hour. The aircraft became very difficult to control but, displaying exceptional skill and resolution, Pilot Officer Foster flew it back to this country.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

Can/R.135221 Flight Sergeant Anthony Wright TYNMOUTH, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 431 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

One night in February, 1944, this airman piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin. On the outward flight the aircraft was attacked by a fighter and sustained damage to the fuselage, the oxygen supply system, the wireless apparatus and other equipment; the intercommunication system was also rendered unserviceable. Undeterred, Flight Sergeant Tynmouth went on to the target and pressed home his attack. On the return flight, the bomber was intercepted by more fighters but, by his skill, good judgment and resource, Flight Sergeant Tynmouth brought his aircraft home without sustaining further damage. On this, his first sortie as captain, this airman displayed a high standard of leadership, courage and determination.

1318538 Flight Sergeant Francis WADGE, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 100 Squadron.

One night in February, 1944, this airman was captain and pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack Stuttgart. Soon after leaving the target area the aircraft was heavily hit. Some 6 foot of the port wing was ripped away, both the port propellers were bent, the mid-upper turret was shattered and some other important parts of the bomber's structure were damaged. Considerable height was lost and Flight Sergeant Wadge gave orders to prepare to abandon aircraft. He succeeded in regaining control, however, and promptly informed his crew that he intended to try to reach England. His efforts were successful and, in the face of great difficulty, Flight Sergeant Wadge effected a masterly landing at an airfield near the coast. This airman displayed skill, courage and resolution of a high order.

*Air Ministry, 14th March, 1944.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following award in recognition of gallant and distinguished service:—

*Military Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant Forest Frederick Edward YEO-THOMAS (89215), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.