

detailed for a sortie one night in June, 1944. Over the enemy coast the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and the pilot was mortally wounded. He gave orders to the remainder of the crew to leave by parachute but Sergeant Steere, realising that his comrade would be unable to follow, disregarded the order. He went to his wounded comrade and together they succeeded in regaining control of the aircraft. Sergeant Steere then discovered that Sergeants Mangione and Ritchie had also stayed in the aircraft and were ready to assist in rendering what aid they could to their fatally injured pilot. This done, they did everything possible to assist Sergeant Steere who had taken over the controls in an effort to fly the aircraft home. Although he had no previous experience he flew to an airfield. After making contact with the ground personnel by radio telephone he circled the airfield whilst Sergeants Mangione and Ritchie gave additional first aid to the pilot and then parachuted him out of the aircraft on a static line in a last effort to save his life. Only when he was sure that his other two comrades had safely left the aircraft by parachute did Sergeant Steere then leave himself. In the face of a trying ordeal these airmen displayed great courage and devotion to duty setting an example of the highest order.

Distinguished Flying Medal

1600884 Flight Sergeant Roy Arthur DYMOTT, R.A.F.V.R. 514 Sqn.

As air gunner, Flight Sergeant Dymott has participated in very many sorties, involving attacks on a variety of enemy targets. He is a keen, cool and resolute gunner whose successes are a good tribute to his skill. He has assisted in the destruction of 3 enemy aircraft.

1334210 Flight Sergeant Charles James JOHNSON, R.A.F.V.R. 514 Sqn.

Flight Sergeant Johnson is a skilful and resolute pilot who has completed many sorties against the enemy. On three occasions recently his aircraft has been attacked by fighters whilst over enemy territory. Each time he has cleverly out-maneuvred the attackers, however, and his gunners have followed up his skilful manoeuvring by good shooting which has resulted in the destruction of the 3 attackers. This airman has set a fine example of zeal and determination.

1870250 Flight Sergeant James POAD, R.A.F.V.R. 514 Sqn.

This airman has taken part in many sorties and has set a high example of determination and devotion to duty. His keenness and efficiency as air gunner have always been evident and have made him a most reliable member of aircraft crew. He has assisted in the destruction of 3 enemy fighters.

Can/R 197583 Flight Sergeant Arthur Ronald WOOLSEY, R.C.A.F. 429 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This airman has taken part in a large number of attacks on strongly defended targets in Germany. He is a most determined and devoted air gunner, whose vigilance and skill have made him a most valuable member of aircraft crew. He has set a very fine example to all.

2206983 Sergeant George Dawson BURTON, R.A.F.V.R. 420 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This airman was the flight engineer of an aircraft detailed to attack an enemy target. During the operation the bomber was engaged by a fighter and sustained much damage. One engine caught fire and the flames blew into the fuselage through the open bomb doors. Displaying great promptitude, Sergeant Burton obtained an extinguisher with which he put out the flames and thus a dangerous situation was averted. His coolness and resolution in harassing circumstances set an excellent example.

Can/R 195070 Sergeant Jean Paul FLORENCE, R.C.A.F. 424 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This airman has participated in very many sorties and has proved himself to be a vigilant and resolute air gunner. On one occasion in May, 1944, when returning from an attack on a target in Germany, Sergeant Florence sighted a Messerschmitt 410 closing in to attack. Displaying great coolness, Sergeant Florence gave the necessary combat manoeuvre to his pilot and then opened fire. His first burst struck the enemy aircraft which caught fire and fell to the ground. This airman has invariably displayed a high degree of determination and devotion to duty.

Can/R 184363 Sergeant John Bryson SULLIVAN, R.C.A.F. 427 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

In June, 1944, this airman was the rear gunner of an aircraft detailed to attack a target in Northern France. Whilst over the target area the aircraft was engaged by a fighter. Sergeant Sullivan was wounded in the head but although partially blinded by blood which flowed from the wound, this gallant gunner remained at his post and gave skilful directions which enabled his pilot to out-maneuvre the attacker. Sergeant Sullivan's turret was badly damaged and caught fire but he succeeded in putting out the flames with an extinguisher which was brought to him by another member of the crew. Displaying exceptional fortitude and devotion to duty, Sergeant Sullivan insisted on remaining in his turret until the enemy coast was crossed. His example was most inspiring.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE
FOR AIR.

Ottawa, 21st July, 1944.

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

Air Force Medal.

Can/R 175983 Sergeant John Bell McRAE, Royal Canadian Air Force.

AMENDMENT.

In notification of 30th June 1944 (p 3091, col 1), Royal Canadian Air Force *Delete* award of Distinguished Flying Cross to Pilot Officer Wray PATERSON (Can/J.85007), 156 Sqn. Award previously announced on 21st April 1944 (p 1838, col 2).

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