

near the bomb bay and Sergeant Bridges fought strenuously to quell the flames with extinguishers. Meanwhile, as the bomb release gear had been rendered inoperative, Pilot Officer Dagleish worked unremittingly to drop the bombs manually, in spite of the proximity of the flames which were finally extinguished. Afterwards, Sergeant Kilminster rendered valuable assistance to his captain in his endeavours to reach this country. These airmen set a fine example of coolness and courage in harassing circumstances.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1318092 Flight Sergeant Harry COTTON, R.A.F.V.R., 640 Sqn.

Flight Sergeant Cotton has completed many operational sorties against a wide range of heavily defended targets in Germany and Northern France. He has at all times displayed courage, determination and devotion to duty of a high order. He is a skilful operational pilot and his keenness and courage have set a fine example to all.

Can/R.155391 Flight Sergeant Hubert Phillip GALANEAU, R.C.A.F., 426 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This airman was the mid-upper gunner of an aircraft detailed to attack the railway junction at Acheres recently. During the outward flight the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire, causing it to go into a violent spin. The pilot regained control but extensive damage had been sustained. Despite this he decided to attempt to fly the aircraft to this country. On the return flight, Flight Sergeant Galaneau proved a most resourceful member of aircraft crew and proved of great assistance to his captain. He set a fine example of determination and devotion to duty.

1458103 Flight Sergeant Denis JOHNSON, R.A.F.V.R., 640 Sqn.

Flight Sergeant Johnson is an outstanding captain, whose gallant leadership and high standard of ability have been reflected in the fine fighting qualities of his crew. In the course of his tour of operational duty he has participated in a large number of sorties, including many attacks on targets in Normandy. Much of the success achieved can be attributed to this fine captain's great skill and resolution.

Aus.418554 Flight Sergeant Alan Keith NIELSEN, R.A.A.F., 622 Sqn.

One night in July, 1944, this airman was captain of an aircraft detailed to attack Stuttgart. On the outward flight severe electrical storms were encountered. When a few miles short of his objective one of the engines failed. Nevertheless, Flight Sergeant Nielsen persisted in completing his mission. Whilst on the homeward journey and still many miles inside enemy territory, a second engine became useless. In an effort to maintain height Flight Sergeant Nielsen gave orders to jettison all movable heavy equipment. Course was changed to enable him to fly home by the shortest route and he finally reached an airfield in this country. This airman has completed many sorties and has displayed commendable skill and determination throughout.

1586796 Flight Sergeant John Leslie WOOD, R.A.F.V.R., 488 (N.Z.) Sqn.

Flight Sergeant Wood is a resolute and devoted member of aircraft crew. He has participated in very many sorties as observer and has assisted in the destruction of 4 enemy aircraft at night. His skill is of a high order.

1237141 Flight Sergeant Eric Victor KING, R.A.F.V.R., 158 Sqn.

1801248 Sergeant Rodney NEARY, R.A.F.V.R., 158 Sqn.

These airmen were wireless operator and flight engineer respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack an enemy target in July, 1944. At the commencement of the bombing run the aircraft was hit by an anti-aircraft shell and the fuselage was riddled with fragments. A small arms ammunition container was hit and its contents exploded. The situation became very alarming but Flight Sergeant King and Sergeant Neary remained unmoved. The coolness they displayed in carrying on with their duties set an inspiring example at a critical period. The target was successfully attacked and the pilot afterwards flew the damaged aircraft to base. These airmen have completed a large number of sorties and have displayed determination and devotion to duty of a high order.

1387248 Sergeant Roy Oswald NORFOLK, R.A.F.V.R., 467 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Sergeant Norfolk, as navigator, has participated in many sorties. In July, 1944, he was detailed to attack St. Cyr. When nearing the target area the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. Sergeant Norfolk was wounded in the leg. Nevertheless, he refrained from informing his captain until they had attacked their objective and were well clear of the area. Despite the loss of much blood, Sergeant Norfolk insisted on continuing his duties and he guided his pilot safely back to base. He has invariably displayed a high standard of courage and determination.

656427 Sergeant Leonard Stanley OWEN, R.A.F., 425 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

As air gunner, Sergeant Owen has participated in very many sorties and has proved himself to be a vigilant and resolute member of aircraft crew. On one occasion he was the mid-upper gunner of an aircraft which was engaged by a fighter. Sergeant Owen promptly gave his pilot the necessary combat manoeuvre and then he and his co-gunner opened fire. Following their accurate bursts the enemy aircraft broke away and was seen to be on fire. This airman displayed great coolness and his good shooting contributed materially to the safe return of the aircraft.

Can/R160329 Flight Sergeant Norman Elwood RANSON, R.C.A.F., 420 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Flight Sergeant Ranson, as air bomber, has participated in many successful sorties. On his first mission he was a member of a crew detailed to attack Stuttgart. When over the target the aircraft was struck by shrapnel which wounded the pilot and killed the navigator. On the return flight, Flight Sergeant Ranson assumed the duties of the navigator and guided his pilot to this country with much skill. His coolness and resource in a trying situation were most commendable.

*Air Ministry, 19th September, 1944.*

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

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

*Flying Officers.*

John Eric PARKINSON (136913), R.A.F.V.R., 427 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Alfred Charles Thomas PARTRIDGE (159441), R.A.F.V.R., 76 Sqn.

Sathianadhan PAUL (139653), R.A.F.V.R., 51 Sqn.

Charles Henry PETTIT (171788), R.A.F.V.R., 35 Sqn.

Howard Graham PHILLIPS (159434), R.A.F.V.R., 578 Sqn.

Philip Edward PLOWRIGHT (170428), R.A.F.V.R., 9 Sqn.

John Walter De Foix RAWLE (113590), R.A.F.V.R., 138 Sqn.

Leslie ROBERTS (157625), R.A.F.V.R., 35 Sqn.

William Graham Riddle ROBERTSON (135678), R.A.F.V.R., 100 Sqn.

Cecil William SHIRES (135039), R.A.F.V.R., 97 Sqn.

George Vassili SMITH (139838), R.A.F.V.R., 51 Sqn.

Bernard Stanley SWIFT (157972), R.A.F.V.R., 109 Sqn.

Ronald Charles Goodall TIBBLES (142372), R.A.F.V.R., 427 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Stephen TINKLER (126616), R.A.F.V.R., 192 Sqn.

Edward WALLIS (55016), R.A.F. 101 Sqn.

Desmond Harry Valentine WALTON (168516), R.A.F.V.R., 640 Sqn.

David Trevor WATKINS (149930), R.A.F.V.R., 50 Sqn.

Harry Frederick WATSON (149079), R.A.F.V.R., 405 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

John Henry WATSON (161389), R.A.F.V.R., 78 Sqn.

Vincent George WESTWOOD (144321), R.A.F.V.R., 139 Sqn.

William WIGHAM (143146), R.A.F.V.R., 102 Sqn.

Graham Arthur John WOOD (150096), R.A.F.V.R., 576 Sqn.

Harry Cecil WRIGHT (161768), R.A.F.V.R., 35 Sqn.

Albert Thomas YODAN (139963), R.A.F.V.R., 467 Sqn.

Leonard YOUNG (158705), R.A.F.V.R., 103 Sqn.

*Acting Flying Officer.*

Brian Francis DURRANT (172179), R.A.F.V.R., 106 Sqn.