

Acting Flight Lieutenant George ELCOMBE (80274), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 66 Squadron.

This officer is a determined, keen and resolute fighter, whose example has been inspiring. Flight Lieutenant Elcombe has taken part in very many sorties and has led his flight with great skill. In combat he has shot down 3 enemy aircraft.

Flying Officer George Henry WARD (143219), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 158 Squadron.

This officer has completed very many sorties against important and well defended targets. He has displayed exceptional keenness and his skilful efforts have been reflected in the successes obtained. Flying Officer Ward has rendered valuable service.

Flying Officer Arthur Raymond Blair BELLIS (Can./J.11564), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 422 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Warrant Officer William Franklin BEALS (Can./R.101280), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 422 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Flying Officer Bellis and Warrant Officer Beals were members of the crew of an aircraft which successfully fought and destroyed a U-boat. In the attack which was executed in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire from the submarine, Flying Officer Bellis and Warrant Officer Beals displayed courage, skill and resolution beyond praise.

Pilot Officer Thomas James BISHOP (155011), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 51 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Bishop has participated in a large number of sorties and has displayed great skill and determination, qualities which have on more than one occasion enabled him to achieve success in the face of difficult circumstances. He is a most efficient captain, whose example has inspired all.

Warrant Officer William Cook (967655), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 164 Squadron.

Warrant Officer Cook is a keen and resolute pilot, whose untiring efforts and unflinching devotion to duty have set a very fine example. Warrant Officer Cook has taken part in a very large number of sorties, including an attack on lock gates in Holland when his excellent work contributed materially to the success achieved.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Flight Lieutenant Jack Hewson TROBE (Aus.416468), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 10 Squadron.

*Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (Flying).*

1127605 Sergeant Thomas Ernest BISBY, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 10 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

Aus.413637 Flight Sergeant William MOWATT, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 10 Squadron.

1119242 Sergeant Robert Clough BRIDGE, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 10 Squadron.

One night in November, 1943, Flight Sergeant Mowatt and Sergeants Bisby and Bridge were mid-upper gunner, wireless operator and flight engineer respectively in an aircraft piloted by Flight Lieutenant Trobe and detailed to attack Dusseldorf. During the operation the aircraft was subjected to a series of attacks by 4 fighters. In the actions the bomber was repeatedly hit. The rear turret, the hydraulic gear, the inter-communication system, the wireless apparatus and other important equipment were rendered unserviceable. Flight Sergeant Mowatt and Sergeants Bisby and Bridge were wounded. In spite of this, Flight Lieutenant Trobe succeeded in flying clear. Two of the bomber's engines had failed but Sergeant Bridge succeeded in re-starting one of them. He afterwards extinguished a fire which had started near one of the turrets and later assisted Flight Sergeant Mowatt to quell another fire which had commenced in the fuselage. Meanwhile, Sergeant Bisby, although in considerable pain, had remained at his post throughout the encounters, and worked unremittingly to effect a temporary repair to his wireless apparatus. He succeeded in obtaining a fix which proved of material help in enabling his pilot to set course for home. Later on, his wireless apparatus again failed but, although on the point of collapse Sergeant Bisby continued his task of repairing it. By a superb effort, Flight Lieutenant Trobe succeeded in reaching base and, in difficult circumstances, effected a masterly landing. In the face of a perilous situation this officer displayed outstanding skill and courage and his valiant efforts were well supported by his comrades, whose courage, fortitude and devotion to duty were of a high order.

*Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (Flying).*

1411327 Sergeant James William NORRIS, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 61 Squadron.

This airman was the flight engineer of an aircraft detailed to attack Dusseldorf. Soon after crossing the enemy coast, the aircraft was attacked by a fighter and sustained damage. A few minutes later another fighter attacked. The bomber was struck by a hail of bullets. The windscreen was broken, the wireless apparatus and other important equipment were destroyed and the oxygen system was rendered useless. The pilot, the wireless operator and the flight engineer were wounded and the navigator was killed. The aircraft became difficult to control but, despite this, the pilot continued to the target, being greatly assisted by Sergeant Norris, whose strenuous efforts were invaluable. Shortly after the target had been successfully attacked, the pilot collapsed owing to his wounds. Sergeant Norris took over the controls and, at times aided by another member of the crew succeeded in flying the damaged bomber to this country. When an airfield was sighted, Sergeant Norris and his comrade succeeded in rallying the semi-conscious pilot sufficiently to take-over and land the aircraft safely. Not until then, did Sergeant Norris disclose that he had been wounded in the arm. In circumstances fraught with great danger, this airman displayed courage, fortitude and determination of the highest order.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

630623 Sergeant William Richard DOHERTY, Royal Air Force, No. 102 Squadron.

One night in November, 1943, this airman was the flight engineer of an aircraft detailed to attack Dusseldorf. Whilst over the target, the bomber was hit. A violent explosion occurred inside the aircraft and part of the fuselage caught fire. Despite the intense heat, the heavy fumes and the lack of oxygen, Sergeant Doherty battled for 20 minutes to subdue the fire which was eventually extinguished. By his heroic efforts, this gallant engineer contributed in a large measure to the safe return of the aircraft.

1622376 Sergeant John Thomas Webster Green NORRIS, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 158 Squadron.

One night in November, 1943, this airman was the rear gunner of an aircraft detailed to attack Dusseldorf. Whilst over the target area, Sergeant Norris saw a fighter coming in to attack from the rear. He gave his captain the necessary combat manoeuvre and then opened fire. The enemy aircraft burst into flames and fell to the ground where it exploded. Almost immediately afterwards, another fighter attacked. Sergeant Norris and the mid-upper gunner met it with devastating fire, causing it to break away. A final burst of fire from Sergeant Norris's guns completed the destruction of the attacker. This skilful and determined gunner has destroyed 2 and assisted in the destruction of 2 more enemy aircraft.

*Air Ministry, 3rd December, 1943.*

The KING has granted unrestricted permission for the wearing of the undermentioned decorations, conferred upon the officers indicated, in recognition of valuable services rendered in connection with the war:—

CONFERRED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

*Legion of Merit (Commander).*

Wing Commander Guy Penrose GIBSON, V.C., D.S.O., D.F.C. (39438), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

*Silver Star.*

Air Commodore Alfred Charles Henry SHARP, Royal Air Force.

*Air Ministry, 3rd December, 1943.*

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

*Promotion.*

The undermtd are granted the rank of Air Cdre. (war subs.):—

Air Cdre. (temp.) A. P. M. SANDERS, C.B.E. 21st Oct. 1943.

Gp. Capt. F. F. INGLIS. 19th Oct. 1943.