

Acting Wing Commander The Honourable Maxwell AITKEN, D.F.C. (90128) Auxiliary Air Force, No. 68 Squadron.

A brilliant pilot and a gallant leader, this officer has set a most inspiring example. By his exceptional skill and unswerving devotion to duty, he has contributed largely to the high standard of operational efficiency of his squadron, and to the successes it has achieved. One night in July, 1942, the squadron destroyed 5 hostile aircraft, 2 of which were destroyed by Wing Commander Aitken himself. His total victories number 12.

*Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Donald Herbert JACKLIN, D.F.C. (40301) No. 108 Squadron.

One night in June, 1942, this officer was the pilot of a bomber aircraft detailed to attack the enemy near Fuka. After flying over the area for some 2 hours an enemy column was observed. Despite difficulties, Squadron Leader Jacklin manoeuvred to attack, but, whilst making his bombing runs, his aircraft was intercepted by a Junkers 88. In the ensuing engagement the bomber was repeatedly hit and the rear turret was put out of action. The aircraft lost height and was subjected to fire from the ground defences. Despite this, Squadron Leader Jacklin, by skilful manoeuvring, enabled his front gunner to deliver an effective burst at the attacking aircraft, setting the fore-part on fire. He then flew his damaged aircraft safely to one of our landing grounds where he made a skilful landing. Throughout, this officer displayed great courage and determination.

*Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Raymond HILTON, D.F.C. (60073) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 83 Squadron.

Pilot Officer John Eely, PARTRIDGE, D.F.C. (121910) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 83 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Pilot Officer Harold SHIELDS, D.F.M. (47713) No. 83 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

963947 Flight Sergeant Reginald Waldemar KLEEMAN, No. 83 Squadron.

One day in July, 1942, Squadron Leader Hilton and Pilot Officers Partridge and Shields were pilots whilst Flight Sergeant Kleeman was a navigator in a force of aircraft which participated in a daylight attack on a target in the Ruhr. When reaching the enemy's coast it was apparent that very little cloud cover was available and the attack would have to be made in the face of fierce opposition. Despite this, the aircraft flew on and, by superb aimanship and magnificent crew co-operation, the German defences were evaded and the target was bombed successfully. During the return journey the aeroplane in which Pilot Officer Partridge and Flight Sergeant Kleeman were flying was attacked, first by 2 Messerschmitt 110's and later by 2 Focke Wulfe 190's. The fire controller in the bomber was wounded but Flight Sergeant Kleeman who took over his duties displayed such skill that not only were the attackers shaken off but 2 of them were damaged, one being probably destroyed. The skill, courage and fortitude displayed by these officers and airman throughout this hazardous mission were reflected in the successful result achieved and are worthy of the highest praise.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant Philip Snowden Alexander HILLIER (41409) No. 6 Squadron.

In June, 1942, this officer participated in 2 sorties against a column of enemy armoured vehicles near Sidi Rezégh. On his first sortie, in the face of heavy fire, he made 4 low level attacks on the target, hitting several tanks. On his second sortie, he flew so low that part of the tail unit snapped off on the turret of one of the vehicles he attacked. Despite the damage sustained to his aircraft he flew it safely to base. Flight Lieutenant Hillier played a gallant part in the operations which were attended with much success.

Flight Lieutenant Allan James SIMPSON (41747) No. 6 Squadron.

In June, 1942, this officer led a fighter formation in an attack on a large number of enemy armoured vehicles in the Bir Hacheim area. Although he was wounded in the chest by enemy ground fire he continued to attack and obtained several hits on the objective. Although weakened by the loss of blood, and with his right arm useless, he attempted to gain height and evade the heavy barrage but his aircraft was hit. Hot oil sprayed over his face and, being unable to see owing to smoke which was penetrating into the cockpit, he was forced to leave his aircraft by parachute at about 500 feet. Flight Lieutenant Simpson descended safely however, and was rescued by one of our ambulance units. Throughout, he displayed great gallantry and outstanding devotion to duty.

Acting Flight Lieutenant William ASTELL (60283) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 148 Squadron.

One night in May, Flight Lieutenant Astell was captain of an aircraft which carried out an attack on an enemy landing ground. Following the attack, his aircraft was intercepted and damaged by an enemy fighter. The rear turret and rudder control were rendered unserviceable whilst fire broke out in the fuselage; the starboard wing, the engine nacelle, and an ammunition container also caught fire and 2 members of the crew were wounded. The aircraft lost height and Flight Lieutenant Astell ordered his crew to escape by parachute. Two of them were able to do so but time did not permit of similar action being taken by the navigator and Flight Lieutenant Astell. The latter was able to make a successful crash landing, however, and both he and his colleague managed to extricate themselves from the wreckage. After a period of 5 days, fraught with danger, they eventually observed one of our patrols. Flight Lieutenant Astell went forward to make contact but, unfortunately, was unable to do so. He returned to the place where he thought he had left his colleague but he could not find him. Flight Lieutenant Astell eventually discovered another friendly detachment and reached safety. Throughout the engagement, and subsequently, this officer displayed great courage and fortitude.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Donald James Mathew BLAKESLEE (Can./4551) Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 133 (Eagle) Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties over enemy territory. He has destroyed 1, probably destroyed 2 and damaged several more hostile aircraft. He is a fine leader whose keenness has proved most inspiring.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Michael FOULIS (62271) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 38 Squadron.

In June, 1942, this officer captained an aircraft which participated in an attack on an Italian naval force. Despite poor visibility and in the face of an intense defensive barrage, he courageously pressed home his attacks from a very low altitude. His complete disregard of danger and his determination set a splendid example. This officer has completed numerous sorties and he has invariably displayed daring of a high degree.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Robert Lawrence SPURDLE (44230) No. 91 Squadron.

This officer is a keen and determined pilot. He has destroyed 5, probably destroyed 4 and damaged several more enemy aircraft. His devotion to duty has set a praiseworthy example.

Acting Flying Officer Frederick Jack HIGHAM (10514) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 68 Squadron.

This officer has participated in the destruction of 4 enemy aircraft; one other has been damaged. He displays great devotion to duty and is always keen to engage the enemy.

Pilot Officer James Richard DUDLEY (106372) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 37 Squadron.

One night in July, 1942, this officer participated in an attack on Tobruk. In spite of heavy and accurate anti-aircraft fire, he made repeated runs over the target area and his work facilitated