

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Pilot Officer Nicholas Chirgwin RICHARDS (147952), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 51 Squadron.

On the night of 17th August, 1943, this officer captained an aircraft detailed for an operation against Peenemunde. When nearing the enemy coast, one of the bomber's engines became un-serviceable. Nevertheless, Pilot Officer Richards continued to the target which he successfully attacked. Soon after leaving the target area a second engine became defective but, displaying great skill, Pilot Officer Richards flew the bomber to base. This officer displayed outstanding determination and devotion to duty in difficult circumstances.

Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (Flying).

Can/R.107483 Sergeant John Calder BAILEY, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 622 Squadron.

This airman was the bomb aimer of an aircraft which attacked Berlin one night in August, 1943. When leaving the target area a fighter was encountered and, in the subsequent action, the bomber sustained much damage and its pilot was seriously wounded. He endeavoured to regain control but slumped over the control column and had to be assisted from his seat. The aircraft lost considerable height and one of its engines was put out of action. Displaying rare coolness, Sergeant Bailey took over the controls and flew the aircraft to an airfield in this country. Although he had never attempted to land a heavy bomber before he succeeded in making a masterly landing. This airman displayed great skill and resource and was undoubtedly responsible for the safe return of the aircraft and its crew.

1384134 Sergeant Bertram Gordon BENNETT, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 623 Squadron.

Sergeant Bennett was the wireless operator of an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin one night in August, 1943. During the bombing run the aircraft was attacked by a fighter. Sergeant Bennett was badly wounded in the chest but, in spite of this, gallantly attempted to quell a fire which had broken out in the structure. With his bare hands he kept the flames under control until an extinguisher was obtained with which the fire was put out. Not until the aircraft was clear of the target area did Sergeant Bennett disclose that he had been hit. His prompt and courageous action contributed materially to the safe return of the aircraft.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1382893 Flight Sergeant Ronald John DAFHEY, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 77 Squadron.

One night in August, 1943, this airman piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin. On the outward journey, engine trouble developed but Flight Sergeant Daffey continued his flight. When nearing the target the engine became useless. In spite of this, Flight Sergeant Daffey persisted in his task, successfully bombed the target and obtained an excellent photograph, afterwards flying the aircraft back to an airfield in this country. His skill and determination in the face of adverse circumstances were worthy of great praise.

991058 Sergeant Robert CURRIE, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 199 Squadron.

This airman was the flight engineer of an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin one night in August, 1943. Whilst over the target area the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and, whilst illuminated by the searchlights, was attacked by an enemy fighter. The controls which regulated the petrol supply from 2 of the tanks were severed. Sergeant Currie, displaying much resource, cut an aperture in the fuselage by means of an axe and then crawled into the wing to turn on the petrol supply so essential for the completion of the return flight. His coolness and resource set a very fine example.

1249433 Sergeant Stephen William FARR, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 51 Squadron.

1056891 Sergeant George KELLY, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 51 Squadron.

One night in August, 1943, Sergeants Farr and Kelly were flight engineer and air gunner respectively of an aircraft detailed for an operation against Berlin. Whilst over the target area the aircraft was engaged by a fighter. A cannon shell shattered the windscreen of the rear turret, smashed the inter-communication system and wounded

Sergeant Kelly in the groin. Although in much pain, this gunner resolutely held to his post and succeeded in driving off the attacker. In spite of extreme cold, owing to the absence of windscreen protection, he remained in his turret until the target had been bombed and the aircraft well clear of the area. Throughout the return flight, Sergeant Farr displayed great fortitude and devotion to duty. Although weak through loss of blood and in great pain caused by multiple injuries received during the encounter, he insisted on fulfilling his duties without assistance until the bomber reached base. These airmen set a fine example of courage and determination.

Air Ministry, 17th September, 1943.

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

Military Medal.

1199606 Sergeant Leslie PEARMAN, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 101 Squadron.

Air Ministry, 17th September, 1943.

AWARDS OF FOREIGN DECORATIONS.

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

CONFERRED BY THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT.

Military Cross, First Class.

Group Captain Augustine ap ELLIS, C.B.E., Royal Air Force.

Squadron Leader Ronald Edwin WATTS, A.F.C. (27069), Royal Air Force.

CONFERRED BY HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS.

Officer of the Order of Orange Nassau.

Squadron Leader Murray Armstrong PAYN (29115), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

Air Ministry, 17th September, 1943.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

Wg. Cdr. (temp.) T. P. GLEAVE (29137) is granted the rank of Wg. Cdr. (war subs.). 6th Mar. 1943.

The undermentioned are granted the rank of Sqn. Ldr. (war subs.):—

Sqn. Ldr. (temp.) R. I. M. BOWEN (25118). 28th July 1943.

Flt. Lts.:—

D. McINTOSH, D.F.C. (42511). 12th July 1943.

D. F. E. C. DEAN, D.F.C. (42997). 22nd July 1943.

Flg. Offs. to be Flt. Lts. (war subs.):—

H. D. BINNS (49732). 25th Aug. 1943.

E. J. KEENAN, D.F.C. (45898). 29th Aug. 1943.

R. F. H. RAMSAY (46606). 4th Sept. 1943.

11th Sept. 1943.

G. N. CHANDLER (47598).

H. SIMPSON (46843).

12th Sept. 1943.

W. A. DOWNES (46770).

A. C. L. MUNNS (46771).

13th Sept. 1943.

G. J. LYNES (46631)

W. R. TREVETHAN (46661).

Plt. Offs. to be Flg. Offs. (war subs.):—

L. M. GILCHRIST (31221). 17th Mar. 1943.

J. A. EDWARD (Lt. R.A.) (51120). 3rd Aug. 1943.

J. A. B. BURN (Lt. R.T.R.) (51301). 1st Sept. 1943.

3rd Sept. 1943.

B. L. ARNOLD (Lt. The Buffs) (51385).

D. G. MERRIOTT (Lt. R.A.) (51386).

F. H. S. MOORE (2nd Lt. 15/19th H.) (51388).

F. A. NOKES (Lt. R.A.) (51387).