

Flying Officer William Elliott ARMSTRONG (122555), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 600 Squadron.

As observer, this officer has taken part in a large number of sorties at night and has assisted in the destruction of 4 enemy aircraft. His skill and keenness throughout have been worthy of high praise.

Flying Officer Harold Thomas BROWN (Can/J.13055), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 419 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

One night in August, 1943, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Nuremberg. Although one engine of the bomber failed early on the outward flight, Flying Officer Brown continued to the target and bombed it successfully. Some nights later, this pilot again flew with distinction in an operation against Berlin. On both occasions he displayed great determination and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Rex Merville CRONCHEY (122070), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 37 Squadron.

This officer has participated in many sorties and has displayed courage and zeal of a high order. He has executed his tasks with great skill and tenacity which contributed materially to the success of many operations during which several important airfields and marshalling yards have been attacked. His efforts throughout have been of inestimable value and featured by outstanding devotion to duty.

Flying Officer William LESTER (134334); Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 40 Squadron.

As navigator, this officer has taken part in a large number of sorties and displayed exceptional ability. One night in July, 1943, he took part in an operation against an airfield at Naples. In spite of much cloud and haze, Flying Officer Lester accomplished excellent work and contributed materially to the success of the operation. On other occasions, when undertaking similar missions, this navigator has achieved much success.

Flying Officer Stewart Thomas SMITH (Can/J.16159), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 90 Squadron.

As rear gunner, this officer has taken part in several sorties. On the latter of these, just as the target had been bombed, his aircraft was attacked by 3 enemy fighters. In the first combat, Flying Officer Smith was wounded in the leg. Despite this, he remained at his guns and fought the attackers with great skill, driving off each one of the enemy aircraft in turn. Not until the bomber was well clear of the target area would he leave his turret to receive medical attention. This gallant gunner contributed materially to the safe return of the aircraft.

Pilot Officer James McCUBBIN (149212), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 9 Squadron.

This officer has completed very many sorties and has invariably displayed great persistence to achieve success. On more than one occasion his aircraft has been attacked by fighters but Pilot Officer McCubbin has displayed great skill to outmanoeuvre the enemy aircraft and return safely to base. He has displayed inspiring leadership and great courage.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant Keith Appleby FAULKNER (82696), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 252 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1387888 Sergeant Geoffrey Vermon GOODES, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 252 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Faulkner and Sergeant Goodes were pilot and observer respectively of the leading aircraft of a formation which attacked a medium sized ship near Preveza harbour in August, 1943. The attack was pressed home with great vigour and the vessel was hit repeatedly. Afterwards, Flight Lieutenant Faulkner attacked a tug leaving the harbour. On the return flight, this pilot attacked a heavily armed vessel. Although his aircraft was hit, Flight Lieutenant Faulkner pressed home a determined attack. Throughout the operations, Sergeant Goodes accomplished much good work and obtained excellent photographs. These members of aircraft crew displayed great courage and resolution.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Flight Lieutenant William Selfridge DAY (Can/J.11555), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 90 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

Aus.412998 Flight Sergeant Colin Alexander MITCHINSON, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 90 Squadron.

This officer and airman were pilot and rear gunner respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin one night in August, 1943. Shortly after the bombs had been released, the aircraft was attacked by 3 enemy fighters. Flight Lieutenant Day cleverly manoeuvred his aircraft while Flight Sergeant Mitchinson fought resolutely to frustrate the attackers, one of which he shot down. The bomber had been hit, however, receiving damage to one of the petrol tanks, which caused it contents to leak rapidly. One of the engines became defective and had to be feathered but, displaying great skill and determination, Flight Lieutenant Day battled on to reach this country. These members of aircraft crew set a worthy example.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1027207 Flight Sergeant Robert Frank LAVACK, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 37 Squadron.

This airman has completed many sorties, including several attacks on important marshalling yards which he has bombed with great success, afterwards diving to a low level to rake the target with machine-gun fire. In all his operations, this airman has displayed great skill and dash, setting a very courageous example. He has rendered most valuable service.

1268036 Flight Sergeant Herbert Blackmore MARSHALL, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 158 Squadron.

This airman has taken part in many sorties over well defended areas, including Berlin. One night in August, 1943, he piloted an aircraft detailed for an operation against Nuremberg. Before the target was reached, one of the bomber's engines became useless. Although the aircraft lost some height, Flight Sergeant Marshall continued to the target and bombed it, afterwards flying the aircraft to base. His skill and tenacity were highly commendable.

1750283 Sergeant John Norman Stephen ASHTON, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 419 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This airman was flight engineer of an aircraft detailed to attack Munchen-Gladbach one night in August, 1943. Soon after leaving the target the bomber was hit by fire from an enemy fighter. Some batteries were set alight, the flames sweeping back along the fuselage. Displaying great promptitude, Sergeant Ashton sprayed the flames around the batteries with an extinguisher until they subsided. Having secured another extinguisher he went to mid position and raised the bomb bay inspection panels to investigate further. Flames immediately blazed up into his face. With his gloved hands he held and rotated the extinguisher in an opening in the floor so that the wind in the slip stream sprayed the fluid around the bomb bay and thus the flames were put out. By his promptitude and resource this gallant airman contributed materially to the safe return of the aircraft.

1297387 Sergeant Norman Leslie Ernest GALE, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 106 Squadron.

This airman was the flight engineer of an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin one night in August, 1943. Whilst over the city, the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. Much damage was sustained, including one of the petrol tanks which was badly pierced, causing its contents to rapidly leak away. Despite this, the pilot completed his bombing run before setting course for home. During the return flight, Sergeant Gale executed his tasks with great skill and zeal, proving of material assistance to his pilot. Soon after the English coast was crossed the petrol became exhausted and the pilot was compelled to attempt a crash-landing. When near to the ground the aircraft struck some obstacles before finally coming to rest in a field where it became wrecked and caught fire. Sergeant Gale got clear and made gallant efforts to rescue other