

Flight Lieutenant Bernard John THWAITES (66032), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 85 Squadron.

Flying Officer William Percival CLEMO (130326), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 85 Squadron.

As pilot and observer respectively, these officers have completed many sorties at night and have destroyed 4 enemy aircraft, 2 of them being shot down on a recent sortie. They have displayed praiseworthy skill and keenness and their example has been highly encouraging.

Acting Flight Lieutenant George Anthony MASON (132757), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 129 Squadron.

This officer is a flight commander of high merit. He has led his flight with skill and vigour and his fine fighting spirit has proved most inspiring. He has destroyed at least 3 and damaged several more enemy aircraft.

Flying Officer Raymond Brown HESSELYN, D.F.M. (N.Z.404362), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 222 Squadron.

This officer has destroyed at least 17 enemy aircraft. His successes are a fine tribute to his great skill, courage and keenness.

Flying Officer Joseph PATIENT (131598), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 139 Squadron.

One night in September, 1943, this officer was the pilot of an aircraft detailed for an operation against Berlin. When well over enemy territory, the bomber was hit by anti-aircraft fire and shortly afterwards one of its engines failed. Later on, the aircraft was attacked by 2 fighters and sustained extensive damage. In spite of this, Flying Officer Patient succeeded in flying clear and set course for this country. Displaying superb airmanship, this pilot battled on, crossed the enemy coast at a low level and eventually reached an airfield, where he effected a safe landing with the undercarriage retracted. In the face of a critical situation, this officer displayed skill, courage and resolution of a high order.

Flying Officer Francis SHIELD (131833), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 418 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Flying Officer Shield is a navigator of exceptional skill. He has taken part in many sorties at night during which such targets as airfields and rail communications have been successfully attacked. He is a model of efficiency and has proved himself to be an invaluable member of aircraft crew.

Pilot Officer Lionel John HAYNES (146865), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 432 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties and has displayed commendable skill and determination. One night in September, 1943, he piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Hanover. During the operation, the bomber was repeatedly attacked by fighters and sustained damage. Despite this, Pilot Officer Haynes continued to the target and bombed it. This officer is a most efficient captain, whose fine fighting qualities have won great praise.

Flying Officer Peter Dunk WHITE (117423), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 90 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in numerous sorties over enemy territory. On one occasion, during an operation against a target in the Ruhr, in the face of harassing circumstances, his courage and coolness were worthy of great praise.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Pilot Officer Anthony BIRD (155025), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 61 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1101769 Sergeant Harry ASPINALL, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 61 Squadron.

1214631 Sergeant Edward James KEMISH, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 61 Squadron.

1388233 Sergeant Bernard KENDRICK, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 61 Squadron.

This officer and airmen were pilot, air gunner, wireless operator and flight engineer respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Hanover one night in September, 1943. When approaching the target, the aircraft was illuminated by searchlights and immediately attacked by 3 fighters. Sergeant Aspinall resolutely attempted to drive off the

attackers but the bomber was repeatedly hit by the fighters' bullets. One engine was set on fire and rendered useless, while other damage was sustained. The aircraft went into a steep dive but, by a strenuous effort, Pilot Officer Bird succeeded in regaining control being assisted by Sergeants Kemish and Kendrick who acted with great promptitude. Having evaded the hostile aircraft, Pilot Officer Bird went on to the target and released his bombs, afterwards flying the damaged bomber to base. This pilot displayed superb skill, great courage and determination. Throughout the return flight his efforts were well supported by his comrades who did everything possible to assist. Their exemplary conduct was worthy of the highest praise.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1535200 Sergeant Sidney Rowland DIDSBURY, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 605 Squadron.

As navigator, this airman has participated in many sorties during which he has assisted in the destruction of 4 enemy aircraft. In addition, Sergeant Didsbury has taken part in numerous attacks on locomotives, several of which have been hit with damaging effect. This airman has displayed great skill and devotion to duty.

1566616 Sergeant James GEDDES, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 434 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This airman was the flight engineer of an aircraft which attacked Munchen Gladbach one night in August, 1943. On the return flight, the bomber was attacked by 2 enemy fighters and sustained much damage. Sergeant Geddes received two wounds in the stomach. Nevertheless, he refrained from informing his captain and calmly continued his engineering duties throughout the return flight. Not until the damaged aircraft had been safely landed at an airfield in this country did Sergeant Geddes disclose that he had been hurt. On this, his first sortie, this airman displayed exemplary conduct, setting an excellent example.

1816110 Sergeant Eric HEAP, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 101 Squadron.

As air gunner, Sergeant Heap has participated in many sorties and has displayed great skill and determination. On several occasions, when his aircraft has been engaged by fighters, his accurate shooting has assisted considerably in driving off the attackers. By his coolness, vigilance and resolution, Sergeant Heap has proved himself to be a worthy member of aircraft crew.

Air Ministry, 26th October, 1943.

The KING has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Canadian Ministers, to approve the following awards:—

Air Force Cross.

Wing Commander Joseph Gainham TWIST (Can/C.1282), Royal Canadian Air Force.

Acting Wing Commander Peter Gilbert LAMB (90349), Auxiliary Air Force.

Acting Wing Commander Richard Dunning PEXTON (72150), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Squadron Leader Eric Alexander BLAND (Can/C.1445), Royal Canadian Air Force.

Squadron Leader Gordon Arthur FOLKINS (Can/C.1013), Royal Canadian Air Force.

Squadron Leader Clarence Archibald JAMES (Can/C.1559), Royal Canadian Air Force.

Squadron Leader Joseph Ulric Achille MICHAUD (Can/C.1483), Royal Canadian Air Force.

Flight Lieutenant John Ender PALMER (Can/C.9218), Royal Canadian Air Force.

Flight Lieutenant Arthur Frederick Alexander UNDERHILL (70917), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

Flying Officer John Henry DEMPSTER (Can/J.9449), Royal Canadian Air Force.

Warrant Officer Class I George Cecil Vincent HURREN (Can/91023), Royal Canadian Air Force.

Warrant Officer Class I James Edgerton SHORT (Can/R.61644), Royal Canadian Air Force.

The KING has also been graciously pleased, on the advice of Canadian Ministers, to give orders for the publication of the names of the following personnel who have been commended for valuable service in the air:—

Wing Commander.

M.P. FRASER (Can/C.374), Royal Canadian Air Force.