

Warrant Officer Robert Oliver LUMGAIR (Can/R.86155), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 408 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

As air gunner, Warrant Officer Lumgair has taken part in a large number of sorties, involving attacks on industrial centres in the Ruhr and many other targets of importance. He is a most conscientious member of aircraft crew, whose vigilance and skill have played a good part in the successes obtained. During an operation against Hanover in 1943, his aircraft was attacked by a fighter. In the ensuing combat Warrant Officer Lumgair displayed excellent judgment in directing the necessary evading tactics, afterwards using his guns to such good effect, in unison with the rear gunner, that the attacker was shot down in flames. His efforts contributed materially to the success of the sortie.

Warrant Officer James Willett RITCHIE (Can/R.93698), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 467 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

As air gunner, Warrant Officer Ritchie has taken part in a large number of sorties and has proved himself to be a skilful and reliable member of aircraft crew. His fine fighting qualities were amply demonstrated in a combat with a fighter during a recent operation against Hanover. Although he was wounded in the eye, Warrant Officer Ritchie fought with rare zest and afterwards refused to leave his turret until the danger from further interference by enemy aircraft was passed. His exemplary conduct was worthy of great praise.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flying Officer Jacques Robert Christian HOBOKEN (131136), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 106 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

975066 Sergeant George Emile Gaston LUCAS, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 106 Squadron.

This officer and airman were pilot and flight engineer respectively, of an aircraft which attacked Kassel one night in October, 1943. Soon after leaving the target area, the bomber was hit by a burst of gunfire from a fighter. Flying Officer Hoboken, Sergeant Lucas and other members of the crew were wounded and the aircraft sustained damage. A few minutes later, a second attack developed. The bomber was again hit and both turrets were rendered unserviceable. Nevertheless Flying Officer Hoboken manoeuvred his aircraft with consummate skill and succeeded in flying clear. The situation was serious, however, as the bomber was badly crippled and 5 of the crew were wounded. In spite of this, course was set for this country. Displaying superb skill, Flying Officer Hoboken battled on to reach an airfield. During the return flight, Sergeant Lucas, although wounded, fulfilled his engineering tasks with great ability, rendering valuable assistance. In circumstances fraught with great danger this officer and airman displayed courage, resolution and devotion to duty of the highest order.

*Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (Flying).*

658038 Flight Sergeant Frederick John STUART, Royal Air Force, No. 426 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

One night in October, 1943, this airman piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Leipzig. Before the target was reached the aircraft was intercepted by a fighter which attacked with great persistence. Much damage was sustained before Flight Sergeant Stuart succeeded in flying clear. Shortly afterwards, another fighter made a series of attacks but, with superb skill, Flight Sergeant Stuart evaded them. His aircraft was badly crippled. The cockpits, turrets, hydraulic gear and other essential equipment were damaged. The petrol tanks had been pierced and one of the gunners wounded. Undaunted, this valiant pilot went on to bomb his target and afterwards flew the crippled bomber to base where he effected a masterly landing. In the face of heavy odds, this airman set an example of courage, resolution and devotion to duty beyond praise.

710111 Sergeant Arthur Humphrey COWHAM, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 57 Squadron.

One night in October, 1943, this airman was the rear gunner of an aircraft detailed to attack Hanover. Shortly after the target had been bombed the aircraft was engaged by a fighter and hit by a hail of bullets which caused much damage. Sergeant Cowham was struck in the face and

suffered a severe injury to one of his eyes. Although his turret was virtually wrecked he fought on with great resolution and played a good part in driving off the attacker. Throughout the long journey home this brave gunner, although in intense pain and suffering from the loss of blood, refused to leave his post. Twice, subsequently, his accurate shooting prevented an enemy aircraft from closing in, while his skilful directions assisted his pilot to out-mancoeuvre the enemy and fly clear. In harassing circumstances his gallant example greatly encouraged his comrades who were striving to bring the crippled bomber home. On this, his first sortie, Sergeant Cowham displayed courage, fortitude and devotion to duty in keeping with the best traditions of the Royal Air Force.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

Can/R.124853 Flight Sergeant Arthur Tremaine BOWLBV, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 408 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This airman has completed very many sorties and has displayed great keenness throughout. He is a resolute and skilful air gunner, whose coolness in the face of the enemy has won high praise. His example has been most inspiring.

657525 Flight Sergeant John Thomas LYONS, Royal Air Force, No. 600 Squadron.

As observer, Flight Sergeant Lyons has participated in many sorties at night and has assisted in the destruction of 9 enemy aircraft. This airman is a skilful and confident member of aircraft crew whose example has been highly commendable.

N.Z.413159 Flight Sergeant Colin Malcolm WALLACE, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 467 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Flight Sergeant Wallace is an extremely efficient captain and pilot. Throughout his tour of operations he has displayed great keenness and determination, qualities which have earned him many successes. In a recent attack on Hanover his aircraft sustained extensive damage and 2 of his crew were wounded in an engagement with a fighter. In spite of this, Flight Sergeant Wallace flew the bomber to base. His example of devotion to duty has been highly commendable.

1716019 Sergeant Kenneth Norman HICKLIN, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 101 Squadron.

1066653 Sergeant Robert SROTT, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 101 Squadron.

In September, 1943, these airmen were rear and mid-upper gunners respectively of an aircraft which attacked Hanover. During the operation the bomber was hit by anti-aircraft fire and then, whilst illuminated by the searchlights, was attacked by a fighter. Although their turrets were struck and damaged, whilst a fire burned alarmingly amidships, these gunners fought on with great coolness and drove off the attacker. Afterwards, Sergeant Hicklin was overcome by fumes but quickly recovered when dragged clear of his turret by Sergeant Stott and another member of the crew. Displaying great courage and endurance, these gallant gunners then rendered great assistance in extinguishing the fire in the fuselage. Their coolness, courage and devotion to duty in most trying circumstances were most inspiring.

1162938 Sergeant Leonard George RAYMOND, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 158 Squadron.

As air gunner, Sergeant Raymond has taken part in very many sorties during which a wide range of important targets have been attacked. One night in September, 1943, during an attack on Hanover, Sergeant Raymond proved his skill by shooting down a fighter over the target area. His effort was highly commendable. On other occasions his alertness has contributed materially to the successes achieved.

*Air Ministry, 19th November, 1943.*

ROYAL AIR FORCE

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH

*Promotion*

*The undermtd. are granted the rank of Gp. Capt. (war subs.):—*

*Gp. Capt. (temp.):—*

J. A. BORET, C.B.E., M.C., A.F.C. 23rd Sept. 1943.

W. J. SEWARD. 1st Nov. 1943.

Wg. Cdr. H. J. KIRKPATRICK, D.F.C. (05230). 27th Oct. 1943.