

1331629 Flight Sergeant Lewis Henry GOULD, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 179 Squadron.

Can/R.102446 Sergeant Donald Mervin CORNISH, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 179 Squadron.

As wireless operator/air gunner and pilot respectively, these airmen have undertaken many anti-submarine patrols. On one occasion, they sighted a U-boat and, in the face of heavy anti-aircraft fire, Sergeant Cornish pressed home a most determined attack. Three nights later, another U-boat was sighted and immediately attacked. Although the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire, Sergeant Cornish pressed home his attack with great accuracy. The U-boat was extensively damaged and was unable to submerge. These gallant airmen displayed great skill and determination, setting an excellent example.

Aus.409836 Flight Sergeant Peter Bowen JACKSON, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 102 Squadron.

One night in October, 1943, this airman piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Kassel. On the outward flight, still many miles from the target, 1 of the bomber's engines failed. Undeterred, Flight Sergeant Jackson continued to the target and bombed it from a low level. His effort was typical of the determination he has shown throughout his tour of operations.

656413 Flight Sergeant Robert LOCKHART, Royal Air Force, No. 37 Squadron.

Flight Sergeant Lockhart is a most skilful and fearless pilot, whose determined efforts throughout his tour have been highly commendable. His fine fighting spirit was well illustrated on 1 occasion during a sortie against a target near Formia, Italy. Shortly after crossing the enemy coast, on the return flight his aircraft came into collision with another bomber. The upper part of the fin and the rudder were torn away, while the remainder hung loosely. The rudder bar was jerked with considerable force and Flight Sergeant Lockhart was painfully hurt in the leg. The aircraft became almost uncontrollable, but, by strenuous efforts, this pilot succeeded in holding it to its course. The situation was serious but he battled on to reach base, where, in the face of almost impossible odds, he effected a safe landing. Flight Sergeant Lockhart displayed courage, fortitude and tenacity of a high order.

Can/R.124098 Flight Sergeant Philip Douglas MITCHELL, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 619 Squadron.

As air gunner, Flight Sergeant Mitchell has participated in many attacks on well defended enemy targets. He is a cool and reliable member of aircraft crew, whose vigilance and skill have contributed materially to the successes obtained. On a recent occasion, during an attack on Stuttgart, Flight Sergeant Mitchell engaged an enemy fighter and shot it down.

1231935 Flight Sergeant Ronald THACKRAY, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 10 Squadron.

Flight Sergeant Thackray is an outstanding captain, whose determined efforts have been worthy of high praise. On several occasions, his aircraft has been damaged by enemy action but, each time, he has flown it back to base. His fine fighting qualities and devotion to duty have set an excellent example.

1239065 Sergeant James Desmond ASPIN, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 625 Squadron.

One night in October, 1943, this airman piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Leipzig. On the outward flight his aircraft was attacked by 2 enemy fighters. Coolly and skilfully, Sergeant Aspin out-maneuvred the attackers, enabling his gunner to shoot 1 of the enemy aircraft down and drive the other off. Although the rear turret became unserviceable, Sergeant Aspin flew on and executed a successful bombing attack. On the return journey, the bomber was hit by machine-gun fire from another fighter but Sergeant Aspin flew clear and was able to reach base. This airman displayed outstanding skill, courage and resolution.

1033580 Sergeant Eric FURNESS, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 158 Squadron.

Sergeant Furness is a confident and resolute air gunner whose operational record is worthy of much praise. He has participated in a large number of sorties, including such well defended targets as Berlin, Cologne, Hamburg and Essen and has played a good part in the successes obtained. His example of coolness and devotion to duty has been inspiring.

1334637 Sergeant Herbert Oliver Jordan SPARKS, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 207 Squadron.

One night in October, 1943, this airman was the wireless operator/air gunner of an aircraft detailed to attack Leipzig. Before the target was reached the bomber was attacked by a fighter. The intercommunication gear was rendered unserviceable and the wireless aerial destroyed. Sergeant Sparks was severely wounded in the legs but refused to leave his post. After a comrade had fixed a tourniquet on his injured legs, Sergeant Sparks continued to work at his wireless apparatus and later succeeded in repairing the inter-communication gear. This airman displayed great courage and fortitude and set a most inspiring example.

Air Ministry, 23rd November, 1943.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

Appointment to commission.

As *Plt. Offs. (temp.) on employment with the R.A.F.* 2nd Oct. 1943:—

Lt. Joseph Herman BLASKEY, The King's R. (53422).

Lt. Malcolm MEEHAN, Y. & L.R. (53423).

As *Plt. Offs. on prob. (emergency):—*
Wt. Offs.

581484 John Pemberton WILLIAMS (53430). 12th Apr. 1943.

563867 Frederick FAIRCHILD (53429). 20th Apr. 1943.

526225 Thomas Dignan CAMPBELL (52607). 31st July 1943.

517808 John CHRISTIE (53421). 12th Aug. 1943.

618482 Frederick Arnold MELTON (53435). 2nd Oct. 1943.

Temp. Wt. Off.

562812 George Charles MARTIN (53437). 5th Aug. 1943.

Flt. Sgts.

570378 George William Wray WADDINGTON (53427). 23rd Aug. 1943.

543303 John Edward NEWBY (53425). 25th Aug. 1943.

635821 William George DAYNES, D.F.M. (53432). 3rd Sept. 1943.

652059 John Edward BUTTON (53436). 15th Sept. 1943.

591421 John Ernest WHITLOCK (53431). 20th Sept. 1943.

617443 Clifford HARDMAN (53434). 21st Sept. 1943.

567861 Arthur Edmund Frederick WHEELER (53426). 16th Oct. 1943.

Temp. Flt. Sgt.

548686 John James MANDALE (53433). 18th Sept. 1943.

Sgts.

577123 George William Frederick CHAPMAN (53428). 15th Aug. 1943.

542582 Anthony Horace ALLMOND (53449). 16th Aug. 1943.

548985 William McTAGGART (53450). 15th Sept. 1943.

591034 John Leslie Ross COLEMAN (53438). 12th Oct. 1943.

Cpls.

591879 James Douglas JONES (53112). 22nd Jan. 1943.

624985 Frank HOLLIDAY (55231). 20th Aug. 1943.

Ldg. Acm.

575932 Colen Paul MUNDY (55229). 20th Aug. 1943.

605484 David Freeland Cliff ROSS (55238). 3rd Sept. 1943.

Amendment.

In notifi. of 21st Sept. 1943 (p. 4177, col. 1), concerning W. M. HUGGARD (52811), for 8th July 1943, read 8th June 1943.

Grant of acting rank.

Air Cdre. S. E. TOOMER, D.F.C., as Air Vice-Mshl. 2nd Sept. 1943. (Subs. for notifi. of 14th Sept. 1943 (p. 4080, col. 2)).

Transfer between branches.

Sqn. Ldr. (since promoted) N. C. WALKER (26167) to the Tech. Br. 24th Apr. 1940.