

*Air Ministry, 14th December, 1943.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy:—

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Keith Appleby FAULKNER, D.F.C. (82696), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 252 Squadron.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross this officer has participated in numerous sorties and his great skill and fine fighting qualities have been amply demonstrated on many occasions. In September, 1943, he led a formation of aircraft in an attack on a heavily armed and escorted convoy near Amorgos Island. In the engagement Squadron Leader Faulkner attacked an Arado 196, which he forced down on to the sea, and afterwards attacked a merchant ship and an escorting vessel. This officer is a highly efficient flight commander, whose outstanding qualities have inspired all.

Acting Squadron Leader Leonard Fitch RATCLIFF, D.F.C., A.F.C. (87022), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 161 Squadron.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, this officer has completed many sorties and has achieved much success. He is a most efficient flight commander, whose keenness and devotion to duty have been unflinching. On one occasion, Squadron Leader Ratcliff was detailed for an important sortie. When passing over the enemy coast he experienced engine trouble. Nevertheless, Squadron Leader Ratcliff went on to the target and successfully completed the operation, afterwards flying on to North Africa to make a safe landing. His effort was worthy of high praise.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Lewis George Alfred REED, D.F.C. (49333), Royal Air Force, No. 161 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in numerous sorties, many of which have demanded a high degree of skill and determination. He is a highly efficient member of aircraft crew and his example of coolness and courage has been highly commendable. Flight Lieutenant Reed has also rendered valuable service in the training of other members of the squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant John Cunningham THELWELL, D.F.C. (115063), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 105 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Thelwell is a skilful and resolute captain who has completed very many successful sorties. One night in November, 1943, he piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Dusseldorf. Early on the outward flight a technical failure caused engine trouble. In spite of this, Flight Lieutenant Thelwell went on to the target and, in the face of heavy opposition, executed a successful attack. He displayed skill and determination of a high order.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Squadron Leader Brian Alexander EATON (Aus.133), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 3 Squadron.

One evening in October, 1943, this officer led his squadron in an attack on a strong enemy force, equipped with tanks, which were attacking our troops near Termoli. In spite of intense anti-aircraft fire, Squadron Leader Eaton led his formation in at a low level and pressed home an attack which completely disrupted the enemy's forces. In this spirited action, Squadron Leader Eaton displayed inspiring leadership, great courage and tenacity.

Acting Squadron Leader Gordon Barry ATKINSON (42091), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 603 Squadron.

This officer has participated in a very large number of sorties, including many attacks on shipping. On one occasion he led the squadron in a sortie during which a large ship was attacked and disabled. Squadron Leader Atkinson has displayed inspiring leadership and great determination and has played a good part in the successes achieved by his squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Hugo SHANNON (83254), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 236 Squadron.

This officer has participated in numerous attacks on enemy shipping and has displayed courage and determination of a high order. One occasion

his aircraft was attacked by 8 Junker 88s. Squadron Leader Shannon fought with rare zest, however, and eventually succeeded in flying clear. Although his aircraft had sustained severe damage he flew it to base where he effected a masterly landing. In November, 1943, Squadron Leader Shannon led a formation of aircraft in an attack on an enemy convoy. As the formation went in to make the attack an anti-aircraft shell struck Squadron Leader Shannon's aircraft and he was wounded in the face, arms and legs by fragments of shrapnel. In spite of this, this gallant pilot executed a damaging attack on an armed trawler. Displaying exceptional fortitude, he flew his damaged aircraft to base and effected a safe landing with the under-carriage retracted. His courage and endurance set an example of the highest order.

Acting Flight Lieutenant John Johnstone JAGGER (123520), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 35 Squadron.

One night in November, 1943, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin. Soon after taking off, one of the bomber's engines commenced to lose power. Flight Lieutenant Jagger continued to the target however, and successfully completed his attack. Whilst over the city, the defective engine became useless but Flight Lieutenant Jagger flew the bomber safely to base. This officer has always displayed the greatest determination to reach and bomb his objective and his example has inspired all.

Acting Flight Lieutenant James Stewart KNOX (149355), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 158 Squadron.

This officer has completed very many sorties during which he has attacked most of the important targets in Germany. On one occasion, when passing over the enemy coast on the return flight from Dusseldorf, the propeller of one of the bomber's engines fell away, causing damage to some important equipment and to the fuselage. Nevertheless Flight Lieutenant Knox flew the damaged bomber to base. His effort was typical of the determination he has displayed throughout his tour. His example has been most inspiring.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Andrew SIREL (148170), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 158 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Sirel has participated in a large number of attacks on important targets in Germany and displayed outstanding determination to achieve success. On one occasion, whilst over Cologne, his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. One of the bomber's engines was damaged and one of the petrol tanks was pierced. Despite this, Flight Lieutenant Sirel executed a successful attack. He has displayed courage and skill of a high order.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Frederick Sidney SMITH (Can./J.17639), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 158 Squadron.

This officer has displayed outstanding qualities of courage, skill and determination. He has taken part in a very large number of sorties, involving attacks on targets in the Ruhr and other important centres. Flight Lieutenant Smith is a cool and confident captain, whose example has inspired his crews.

Flying Officer Cyril George ADAMS (151028), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 47 Squadron.

On a recent occasion this officer took part in an attack on a Siebel ferry. During the operation strong fighter opposition was encountered. In the ensuing combats, Flying Officer Adams displayed great courage and resolution and used his machine-gun most effectively to frustrate the attackers. His cool judgment and valiant efforts contributed materially to the success of the sortie.

Flying Officer James Robertson Grant BATHGATE (N.Z.403932), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 161 Squadron.

Flying Officer Bathgate has taken part in a very large number of sorties, many of them in the Middle East. He has displayed exceptional skill, keenness and determination, qualities which have earned him many successes. He is a very efficient captain and his example has proved inspiring.

Flying Officer Robert BURR (127536), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 44 Squadron.

Flying Officer Burr is a capable and confident captain whose determination to complete his sorties successfully has been a feature of his tour.