

Flying Officer William Ernest Gifford HUMPHREY (127889), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 105 Squadron.

This officer has completed many sorties and has displayed commendable courage and determination. One night in November, 1943, he piloted an aircraft detailed to attack a target in the Ruhr. Whilst over the target area the aircraft was subjected to heavy anti-aircraft fire. A shell burst close under the nose of the bomber and caused damage to the controls. Flying Officer Humphrey was injured in the foot by a fragment of shrapnel which cut away the toe of his flying boot. Nevertheless, he pressed home his attack with vigour, afterwards flying the damaged bomber to an airfield in this country. This officer displayed a high degree of skill and resolution throughout.

Pilot Officer Henry Arthur Laurence ELLIS (Aus.412932), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 77 Squadron.

One night in November, 1943, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Leverkusen. When nearing the target the bomber came under heavy fire from the ground defences. Two of the aircraft's engines were hit and other damage was sustained. Undeterred, Pilot Officer Ellis flew on to the target and pressed home his attack. Not long afterwards both the defective engines became useless. In spite of this, Pilot Officer Ellis flew the bomber to base. He displayed superb skill, great courage and resolution.

Pilot Officer Harold Wallace MITCHELL (Can/J.18923), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 429 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

One night in November, 1943, this officer piloted an aircraft which attacked Stuttgart. When more than 100 miles from the target one of the bomber's engines became unserviceable. Pilot Officer Mitchell continued to the target, however, and despite heavy fire from the ground defences, pressed home his attack, afterwards flying the aircraft safely to base. He displayed great skill, determination and devotion to duty.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Aus.414342 Flight Sergeant William Walter DODSWORTH, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 199 Squadron.

One night in November, 1943, this airman was the pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack Leverkusen. In the bombing run the aircraft was hit by shrapnel. The gun turrets and the inter-communication system were rendered unserviceable and a fire started. In spite of this, Flight Sergeant Dodsworth coolly continued his run and successfully attacked the target whilst other members of the crew dealt with the fire which they succeeded in extinguishing. In harassing circumstances, Flight Sergeant Dodsworth displayed skill, coolness and resolution of a high order.

Aus.425680 Flight Sergeant Roy Alexander LEARMONTH, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 619 Squadron.

This airman was the rear gunner of an aircraft which attacked Berlin one night in November, 1943. During the operation the bomber was attacked by two enemy aircraft. In the ensuing fight, Flight Sergeant Learmonth displayed great skill, giving his captain clear and concise evading directions whilst using his guns to good effect. Following his accurate burst of fire, one of the enemy aircraft caught fire and dived steeply and the other one terminated the engagement. By his resolute work, Flight Sergeant Learmonth contributed materially to the success of the operation. He has participated in many sorties and his keenness and vigilance have always been evident.

Air Ministry, 17th December 1943.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following award:—

Military Medal

539610 Acting Flight Sergeant Charles Louis SCHOFIELD, Royal Air Force, No. 74 Squadron.

On the 6th October, this airman was detailed to man an Italian Breda gun at Simi. He remained on the site for seven days sharing the duties with another airman. The gun was in a key position and was attacked incessantly by Stukas, but Flight Sergeant Schofield remained at his post and fired

his gun even when the flash eliminator was burnt off and the sights had fallen off owing to the heat of the gun. This airman probably destroyed one of the enemy aircraft although he had been wounded in the arm. On the first day of the invasion of Simi some Germans were detected below the position of the gun. Flight Sergeant Schofield participated in an attack against them and brought back one of the enemy's wounded.

AMENDMENTS.

In notification of 19th October 1943 (p. 4618, col. 2), for Acting Warrant Officer (now Pilot Officer) Raymond Frank DENTON (1390294) read Acting Warrant Officer Raymond Frank DENTON (1390284).

In notification of 24th September, 1943 (p. 4248, col. 2), awards of allied decorations. In heading preceding name of Lieutenant-Colonel Stephen Alexander Melville, O.B.E., South African Air Force, for "Commander" read "Officer."

Air Ministry, 17th December, 1943.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

Promotion.

Air Cdres. (temp.) granted the rank of Air Cdre. (war subs.):—

J. W. JONES, C.B. 10th Nov. 1943.

T. A. LANGFORD-SAINSBURY, O.B.E., D.F.C., A.F.C. 16th Nov. 1943.

Gp. Capt. (temp.) granted the rank of Gp. Capt. (war subs.):—

3rd Nov. 1943.

A. M. WRAY, D.S.O., M.C., D.F.C., A.F.C.

T. N. McEVoy, O.B.E.

J. SILVESTER, C.B.E. 10th Nov. 1943.

The undermtd. are granted the rank of Wg. Cdr. (war subs.):—

Wg. Cdres. (temp.):—

A. V. BAX, A.F.M. (05189). 29th Oct. 1943.

H. E. BUFTON, D.F.C., A.F.C. (33223). 1st Nov. 1943.

S. W. B. MENAUL, D.F.C., A.F.C. (33272). 7th Nov. 1943.

10th Nov. 1943.

A. E. TAYLOR (22030).

C. S. MOORE (26185).

S. G. BIRCH (34120). 12th Nov. 1943.

17th Nov. 1943.

G. C. TOMLINSON, O.B.E., D.F.C. (05214).

L. C. SLEE, D.S.O., D.F.C. (32021).

G. J. GRINDELL, D.F.C., A.F.C. (32226).

H. P. BROAD, D.F.C. (26174). 20th Nov. 1943.

Sqn. Ldr. T. M. HORGAN, D.S.O., D.F.C. (40114). 4th Nov. 1943.

Flt. Offs. to be Flt. Lts. (war subs.):—

J. ARCHER, A.F.C. (46394). 16th Aug. 1943.

B. WOOD (46175). 17th Aug. 1943.

C. E. FOOKS (47502). 9th Dec. 1943.

10th Dec. 1943.

P. S. BLOMFIELD (47767).

A. R. SHERWOOD (47574). (Seny. 1st May 1943.)

11th Dec. 1943.

G. A. CRAIG, D.F.M. (47605).

J. P. HAYES, D.F.M. (47610).

W. T. KEATES (47526).

W. R. CHALK, D.F.C. (47910). 12th Dec. 1943.

R. F. MASON (47675). 13th Dec. 1943.

15th Dec. 1943.

J. F. JOHNSTONE (47779).

R. N. LOWN (47877).

A. E. MAKINS (47579).

C. SHAW, D.F.C. (47515).

Plt. Off. to be Flt. Off. (war subs.):—

J. P. BEALE (31257). 15th July 1943.

Plt. Offs. (prob.) to be Flt. Offs. (prob.) (war subs.):—

E. L. ROBERTS (52758). 29th July 1943.

S. R. OLDRIDGE, D.F.M. (52769). 2nd Sept.

1943.

R. K. HEWITT (52750). 12th Sept. 1943.

S. T. MARSHALL (52802). 26th Oct. 1943.

L. J. GORNALL (52164). 10th Nov. 1943.

R. H. FROST (52693). 12th Nov. 1943.

F. H. SABAN (52768). 20th Nov. 1943.

A. D. HOWE, D.F.M. (52752). 25th Nov. 1943.

A. R. HOWELL (52542). 28th Nov. 1943.