

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Wing Commander Alexander Campbell MAIR (Can/C.1635), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 408 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has participated in very many sorties, involving attacks on a wide variety of important and well defended targets in Germany. Throughout his tour he has displayed great skill and determination, pressing home his attacks with vigour, often in the face of heavy opposition. On several occasions his aircraft has been damaged by enemy action but, despite this, Wing Commander Mair has completed his mission successfully. He is a highly efficient flight commander, whose gallant leadership and personal example have inspired all.

Acting Squadron Leader Frank William Marius JENSEN, A.F.C. (102058), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 181 Squadron.

In October, 1943, this officer participated in an attack on an industrial plant at Caen. In spite of fierce and accurate anti-aircraft fire, Squadron Leader Jensen pressed home a most determined attack from a low level. He has completed a large number of sorties and has invariably displayed skill, courage and resolution of a high order.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Donald Allan MACINNES (145842), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 90 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant MacInnes has completed very many sorties, involving attacks on important and well defended enemy targets. He has displayed great skill and courage in pressing home his attacks and his example has been highly commendable. On one occasion whilst over enemy territory, his aircraft was extensively damaged by anti-aircraft fire but, with great skill, Flight Lieutenant MacInnes flew the bomber to base.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Ralph WHITWORTH (131005), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 90 Squadron.

This officer has participated in numerous attacks on important enemy targets. On one occasion, in an attack on Hamburg, his aircraft was heavily hit by anti-aircraft fire. Considerable damage was sustained, causing the aircraft to become difficult to control. Despite this, Flight Lieutenant Whitworth flew the damaged aircraft to base and effected a masterly landing. By his great skill and determination this officer was responsible for the same return of the aircraft and its crew.

Flying Officer Frederick James BLAKE (150022), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 90 Squadron.

One night in November, 1943, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Leverkusen. Some distance from the target the bomber was hit by anti-aircraft fire. One of its engines was rendered useless and a second was damaged. The aircraft lost some height but, despite this, Flying Officer Blake flew on to the target and bombed it. Displaying superb airmanship this resolute pilot succeeded in flying the damaged aircraft back to this country. His example of courage and devotion to duty was most praiseworthy.

Flying Officer James MANSFIELD (142222), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 90 Squadron.

As air gunner, Flying Officer Mansfield has participated in many sorties and has proved himself to be a keen, skilful and vigilant member of aircraft crew. On one occasion he was the mid-upper gunner of an aircraft which attacked Hamburg. Soon after the bombs had been released the aircraft was illuminated by the searchlights. Almost immediately a fighter attacked. Machine-gun fire from the enemy struck the bomber and the rear gunner was wounded. Flying Officer Mansfield gave his captain clear and concise evading directions and then opened fire from close range. His bullets caused the attacker to dive steeply with black smoke pouring from it. A second fighter then took up the attack but Flying Officer Mansfield's accurate bursts of fire drove it off. In this spirited action, this officer displayed skill and determination of a high order.

Flying Officer James VAUGHAN (137106), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 622 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in a large number of sorties and throughout has displayed a high standard of navigational ability. On one occasion,

in September, 1943, Flying Officer Vaughan participated in an attack on Mannheim. Shortly after the bombs had been released the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and sustained damage. In very difficult circumstances, Flying Officer Vaughan navigated the damaged aircraft back to this country. His skill contributed materially to the successful completion of the sortie.

Pilot Officer Garth Stewart HUGHES (Aus.413614), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 514 Squadron.

One night in October, 1943, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin. Just as his bombing run was completed his aircraft was attacked by a fighter. Pilot Officer Hughes succeeded in evading the attacker but his aircraft had been repeatedly hit by bullets from the enemy aircraft. The rear gunner was killed. The mid-upper turret was rendered unserviceable, while the fuselage became filled with smoke which prevented Pilot Officer Hughes from seeing his instruments. The smoke cleared, however, when several small fires in the fuselage were extinguished. Almost immediately another fighter took up the attack but Pilot Officer Hughes was able to evade it and course was set for base. Soon afterwards, one of the damaged engines became useless. Although the aircraft became difficult to control, Pilot Officer Hughes succeeded in reaching base. This officer, who has attacked Berlin on 5 previous occasions, displayed a high degree of skill, courage and determination.

Pilot Officer Frederick Augustus PHILLIPS (Aus.409939), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 622 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in several sorties and has displayed a high degree of skill and determination. One night in November, 1943, he piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Ludwigshafen. Whilst over the target area his aircraft was hit by shrapnel. The petrol cocks were damaged and the petrol supply could not be regulated. Nevertheless, Pilot Officer Phillips, by skilfully using the engines, flew the aircraft back to this country. Some nights later, whilst over Berlin, one engine of his aircraft became unserviceable. On the return flight considerable height was lost and ammunition was jettisoned in an effort to lighten the aircraft. In the face of heavy odds, Pilot Officer Phillips succeeded in reaching base. This officer has displayed great keenness and devotion to duty.

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Flying Officer Hugh SUTHERLAND (119916), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 224 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

Can/R.122162 Flight Sergeant Alex Paddon GIBBS, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 224 Squadron.

Can/R. 134479 Flight Sergeant Michael Nicholas WERBISKI, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 224 Squadron.

This officer and airmen were pilot, observer and front gunner respectively of a Liberator aircraft detailed to escort a convoy recently. During the passage, 5 or 6 enemy aircraft appeared over the convoy and attempted a bombing attack. Disregarding the heavy anti-aircraft fire which was being directed at the enemy formation from the guns of the convoy, Flying Officer Sutherland flew in and engaged the attackers. He manoeuvred to the rear and above one of the enemy bombers and thus enabled Flight Sergeant Werbiski to deliver a burst of fire which hit the enemy aircraft, setting its starboard engines on fire. After jettisoning its bombs, the aircraft dived away and was not seen again. Flying Officer Sutherland then attacked a second bomber. Once again his skilful manoeuvring enabled his gunners to deliver telling bursts of fire which caused the enemy aircraft to break away with large quantities of black smoke pouring from its starboard engines. With complete disregard of the anti-aircraft fire which was bursting all around, Flying Officer Sutherland attacked a third and then a fourth enemy aircraft, driving them off and forcing them to terminate the engagement. In this very determined action, Flying Officer Sutherland displayed exceptional skill, courage and determination and was well supported by Flight Sergeants Gibbs and Werbiski whose excellent co-operation, good shooting and tenacity set a very fine example.