

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Douglas David HAIG, D.F.C. (33540), Royal Air Force, No. 576 Squadron.

This officer has completed numerous sorties on his second tour of operations and continues to show the same determined qualities which have earned him many successes. One night in February, 1944, he piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Leipzig. Early on the outward flight one of the bomber's engines became defective but Squadron Leader Haig held to his course. Some time later a fighter was encountered but it was skilfully evaded. Soon afterwards the bomber was intercepted by another enemy aircraft. Once again this captain proved his skill by manoeuvring to a position which enabled his rear gunner to deliver a burst of machine-gun fire which struck the attacker and caused its destruction. Squadron Leader Haig then resumed his course and eventually pressed home a successful attack on his target. He set a fine example of skill, courage and resolution.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Wing Commander Charles Stirling MACDONALD (Can/C.1634), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 418 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has participated in a large number of sorties and throughout has displayed great skill, determination and devotion to duty. On a recent occasion, Wing Commander MacDonald led a small formation of aircraft on a sortie during which 7 enemy aircraft were shot down, 2 of which were destroyed by Wing Commander MacDonald. The success achieved on this brilliantly executed operation reflects the greatest credit on the efforts of this officer.

Squadron Leader Frederick Thomas GARDINER (72100), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 254 Squadron.

In February, 1944, this officer led the squadron in an attack on shipping. By his great skill and inspiring leadership, Squadron Leader Gardiner contributed in a large measure to the success obtained. He has completed one tour of operations and his fine fighting qualities and unflinching devotion to duty have set a worthy example.

Acting Squadron Leader Ronald Henry FOKES, D.F.M. (88439), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 257 Squadron.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties during which he has shot down at least 10 enemy aircraft. He is a fine leader and has invariably pressed home his attacks with skill and resolution.

Flight Lieutenant Arthur Howard PIPER (68149), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 218 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Piper has participated in a very large number of sorties, involving attacks on a wide variety of targets. On one occasion he was the rear gunner of an aircraft detailed for a mine-laying mission. When nearing the target area, the aircraft was attacked by a fighter. At the outset, Flight Lieutenant Piper's turret was hit by the enemy's bullets and his guns were put out of action. Nevertheless, Flight Lieutenant Piper so skilfully directed his captain's combat manoeuvres that, although 8 attacks were endured, the attacker was completely frustrated. On several other occasions in fights with enemy aircraft, Flight Lieutenant Piper's gunnery skill has played a good part in driving off the attackers.

Flight Lieutenant Lionel Hamilton SCARGILL (101093), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 541 Squadron.

In February, 1944, this officer completed a reconnaissance over various targets in Germany, returning with most valuable information. Throughout he displayed great skill and determination and his effort was worthy of the highest praise.

Flying Officer Norman Llewellyn BAMFORD (149134), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 85 Squadron.

As observer, Flying Officer Bamford has taken part in a large number of sorties at night and has assisted in the destruction of 4 enemy aircraft. He has at all times displayed great keenness and devotion to duty, setting a praiseworthy example.

Flying Officer William Vincent BLAKE (Can/J.14132), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 428 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

One night in February, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Leipzig. On the outward flight, the aircraft was attacked by a fighter and before the enemy aircraft could be evaded, the bomber sustained much damage. Soon afterwards, 3 more fighters were encountered but they were successfully evaded. A little later, the bomber was hit by fire from the ground defences. More damage was sustained, rendering the intercommunication system inoperative and cutting off the supply of oxygen to the rear of the aircraft. Although the aircraft became difficult to control, Flying Officer Blake continued to the target which he successfully attacked, afterwards flying the damaged aircraft to an airfield in this country. This officer displayed skill, courage and resolution of a high order.

Flying Officer William Geoffrey EAGLE (143448), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 198 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in a large number of sorties and has destroyed 7 enemy aircraft, 4 of which he shot down whilst operating in the Western Desert. In January, 1944, Flying Officer Eagle took part in a sortie during which he became separated from his formation owing to poor visibility. Whilst flying alone he attacked a force of 12 enemy fighters. His first burst of fire struck the leading enemy aircraft which exploded. He then attacked a second enemy aircraft hitting it with a burst of fire, causing it to collide with another of the enemy formation; all three enemy aircraft crashed into the sea. The remainder of the formation broke away and flew off. Thus, single-handed, Flying Officer Eagle routed the whole enemy force. His achievement was outstanding.

Flying Officer Edmund Alfred PEARMAIN (156337), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 7 Squadron.

This officer has completed very many sorties, including 9 attacks on Berlin. He has invariably displayed great skill and determination in pressing home his attacks and thus has achieved many successes. One night in February, 1944, Flying Officer Pearmain took part in an attack on Berlin. Although 1 engine became useless when some 70 miles from the target, Flying Officer Pearmain continued his mission and made a successful attack. His action was typical of the resolution he has always shown to reach and bomb his target.

Flying Officer Lawrence William Fraser STARK (148445), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 609 Squadron.

This officer is a cool and resourceful fighter who has invariably displayed great keenness and determination. He has shot down 6 enemy aircraft in combat, whilst in attacks on enemy targets on the ground he has destroyed an aircraft and a locomotive; he has also attacked a number of small vessels such as tugs and barges with damaging effect.

Pilot Officer Richard Marcellus HIGGS (53148), Royal Air Force, No. 44 Squadron.

As captain of aircraft, Pilot Officer Higgs has completed many sorties against well defended targets in Germany, including 6 attacks on Berlin. He has invariably displayed great skill and courage and his determination to complete his missions successfully has won high praise.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1212752, Flight Sergeant Benjamin John David BIRD, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 149 Squadron.

As rear gunner this airman has participated in many sorties including attacks on such targets as Bochum, Nuremberg and Turin. Throughout he has set an excellent example of keenness and determination and has proved himself to be a reliable and vigilant member of aircraft crew. On 1 occasion his aircraft was attacked 8 times by a fighter. Nevertheless, Flight Sergeant Bird succeeded in driving it off in the end. On another occasion, when his aircraft was intercepted by a fighter, Flight Sergeant Bird coolly withheld his fire until the enemy aircraft came into close range then, with a well directed burst shot it