

Acting Flight Lieutenant James Robert Feir JOHNSON (Can/J.14873), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 418 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Flying Officer Noel James GIBBONS (Can/J.12273), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 418 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

As pilot and observer respectively these officers have completed a large number of sorties. They have displayed great skill and determination throughout and their example of keenness and devotion to duty has been most commendable. They have destroyed at least 4 enemy aircraft.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Cyril John SPRIGGS (134994), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 57 Squadron.

This officer has participated in very many attacks on targets in well-defended areas, including Berlin which he has bombed on 10 occasions. He is a highly skilled pilot, whose gallantry and determination in pressing home his attacks have won much praise. He has rendered excellent service.

Acting Flight Lieutenant William Mollison WALTON (156103), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 57 Squadron.

This officer has completed very many sorties against targets in Germany and has set a fine example of courage and devotion to duty. On several occasions he has proved his skill by flying his aircraft safely to base with one engine out of action. On 8 of his missions the objective has been Berlin.

Flying Officer Keith Handel JONES (Aus.401514), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 680 Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of reconnaissances and has displayed great skill, courage and resource throughout. On one occasion, within recent weeks, he successfully reconnoitred various areas in the Aegean Sea and, in the face of very bad weather conditions, obtained valuable information. On another occasion, when detailed to cover targets in the same area, heavy cloud was encountered. Nevertheless, Flying Officer Jones made several runs over the target from a low level to complete his task successfully. He has set a fine example of keenness and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Julian Lowe (128645), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 680 Squadron.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties, many of them involving flights far into enemy territory. On two occasions recently, he undertook missions in very bad weather and the results obtained were an excellent tribute to his great skill and resolution. His record is worthy of great praise.

Flying Officer Kay Hai TAN (122100), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 225 Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties in the Middle East theatre and has displayed exceptional ability, great courage and devotion to duty. In February, 1944, he was detailed to reconnoitre various targets south of Rome. Despite heavy fire from the ground defences and the presence of many enemy fighters, Flying Officer Tan completed his mission with success. The following day he accomplished another fine performance when he engaged several enemy batteries and a concentration of mechanical transport. His record is worthy of high praise.

Flying Officer Douglas Percival WINTER (Aus.414617), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 466 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

One night in February, 1944, this officer was the pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin. On the outward flight, when some 90 miles from the target, one of the engines became useless. Some height was lost but Flying Officer Winter continued to the target and pressed home his attack, afterwards flying safely to base. This officer has completed numerous sorties and his determination to achieve success has always been evident.

Pilot Officer David Dunbar GRAHAM (Can/J.18335), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 466 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has participated in a large number of sorties against various targets in Germany, including several attacks on Berlin. On the last of these, which he undertook recently, Pilot Officer Graham won much praise by completing the mission successfully in the face of considerable

difficulty. He is a most skilful pilot and a very understanding captain of aircraft, whose example of courage and devotion to duty has greatly inspired his crew.

Pilot Officer Claude WEAVER, D.F.M. (Can/J.18784), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 403 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Within recent months this officer has taken part in numerous low-level attacks against a variety of targets such as airfields and gun emplacements, and throughout has displayed great determination. In air fighting he has destroyed a further 7 enemy aircraft, bringing his victories to 12. His successes are an excellent tribute to his great skill, courage and resolution.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Pilot Officer James Henry CATLIN (168836), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 166 Squadron.

*Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (Flying).*

1627924 Sergeant Barry Colin WRIGHT, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 166 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

2206989 Sergeant William BIRCH, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 166 Squadron.

1226285 Sergeant Thomas Paul HALL, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 166 Squadron.

This officer and these airmen were pilot, flight engineer, rear gunner and wireless operator (air) respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Leipzig one night in February, 1944. When nearing the target area the aircraft was intercepted by 2 fighters. One of them attacked from close range and the bomber was raked along the whole length of the fuselage by the enemy's bullets. Four of the crew were wounded, including Sergeants Hall and Wright, the latter being very severely injured. The aircraft sustained extensive damage, making it impossible for the pilot to take evasive action. Then, to add to the trials of the harassed crew, the bomber became fully illuminated in consequence of a short circuit occurring in the electrical system. The second fighter flew in to the attack but, although forced to operate his turret manually, Sergeant Birch met the attacker with a devastating burst of fire and the enemy aircraft burst into flames and dived to the ground out of control. Only 2 of his guns were now operating but Sergeant Birch used them most effectively and drove off the other attacker. Pilot Officer Catlin then set course for home. Meanwhile Sergeant Hall set to work to repair some of the damaged equipment and later succeeded in making the intercommunication system serviceable. Badly wounded as he was, Sergeant Wright retained consciousness and could not be dissuaded from attempting to fulfil his duties. He was deprived of the use of the instrument panel which had been shot away, while 1 of the petrol tanks was empty. Nevertheless, he continued to keep the engines running at their maximum power. In his efforts, Sergeant Wright had to be supported by a comrade and 3 times fainted through loss of blood but he never wavered. In the face of heavy odds, Pilot Officer Catlin reached an airfield where he effected a masterly landing. His skill, courage and determination were beyond praise. Sergeants Wright, Hall and Birch proved themselves to be valiant members of aircraft crew and did everything within their power to assist their pilot in his endeavours to bring the crippled bomber home.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1551144 Flight Sergeant Charles Jeffrey GRAY, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 61 Squadron.

As pilot and captain of aircraft, this airman has completed many successful sorties. He has displayed great skill and determination, qualities which were well illustrated in a recent attack on Leipzig. Although one engine of his aircraft became useless when still 150 miles away from the target, this did not deter Flight Sergeant Gray from continuing to the objective which he attacked successfully. Throughout his tour he has displayed great devotion to duty.

2216040 Sergeant Stanley BRADFORD, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 57 Squadron.

As air gunner, Sergeant Bradford has participated in very many sorties, including 13 attacks on Berlin. On the last 2 of these, the aircraft was attacked by fighters but, each time, Sergeant