

Flight Lieutenant Leslie Ernest SMITH (47123), Royal Air Force, No. 609 Squadron.

This officer has participated in a very large number of sorties, many of them in the Middle East. He has always displayed the greatest keenness to engage the enemy and his example of courage and resolution has been worthy of high praise. He has shot down four enemy aircraft and destroyed several others on the ground. In attacks on a variety of other targets, Flight Lieutenant Smith has damaged several ships, two locomotives and a number of vehicles. His successes are an excellent tribute to his great skill.

Acting Flight Lieutenant William Denis ERVINE (131084), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 9 Squadron.

One night in December, 1943, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin. It was his seventh sortie against this target. On the outward flight the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and shortly afterwards was attacked by a fighter. Much damage was sustained, making the bomber difficult to control. Nevertheless, Flight Lieutenant Ervine went on to make a successful attack and afterwards flew safely to base. This officer has invariably displayed great skill and determination, qualities which have enabled him to complete a large number of missions successfully.

Flying Officer Samuel John Peter BLACKWELL (80453), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 266 Squadron.

In air operations this officer has displayed courage, skill and fortitude of the highest order.

Flying Officer Hector Frank COLEBROOK (129728), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 29 Squadron.

Flying Officer Robert Alexander CRONE (130416), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 29 Squadron.

As pilot and observer respectively, these officers have completed a very large number of sorties at night during which they have destroyed 3 enemy aircraft. Flying Officers Colebrook and Crone have displayed great skill and co-operation and their example of keenness and devotion to duty has been worthy of emulation.

Flying Officer Kenneth Albert RICHARDS (Aus.400104), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 3 Squadron.

In operations in Italy, Flying Officer Richards has completed a large number of sorties during which he has attacked shipping, road transport and targets in the battle zone with much success. In January, 1944, he attacked a medium sized ship with excellent results. Some time later he attacked another vessel of similar size, obtaining hits which caused its destruction. Flying Officer Richards has invariably displayed commendable courage and determination and his accurate bombing has been a noteworthy feature of his efforts throughout.

Flying Officer Walter Andrew RUSSELL (Can/J.12247), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 31 Squadron.

This officer has participated in many sorties, involving the dropping of supplies to our ground forces. On numerous occasions anti-aircraft fire and fighter opposition have been encountered but Flying Officer Russell has always completed his task successfully. He is a courageous and resolute pilot, whose example has been most commendable.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flying Officer Arthur George WOODS (122252), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 605 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1322235 Flight Sergeant Wilfred Henry JOHNSON, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 605 Squadron.

As pilot and observer respectively, this officer and airman have completed very many sorties, including many attacks on airfields in Northern France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. They have displayed great skill and co-operation and have attacked numerous targets on the ground with success. In addition they have shot down 2 enemy aircraft. Flying Officer Woods and Flight Sergeant Johnson have displayed outstanding devotion to duty.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Pilot Officer Samuel Cunningham ATCHESON (161591), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 57 Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties, including 12 attacks on Berlin. He has at all times displayed exceptional devotion to duty and his example of courage and determination has won great praise. In February, 1944, he piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Leipzig. In the early stages of the outward flight, the air speed indicator became unserviceable. This did not deter him from continuing his mission and he reached the target at the scheduled time to execute a successful attack.

Pilot Officer James Morton HYDES (169554), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 514 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in a large number of attacks on targets in Germany and has proved himself to be a most dependable member of aircraft crew. His coolness and initiative were amply demonstrated during an attack on Schweinfurt one night in February, 1944. During the bombing run his aircraft was struck by a heavy object which fell into the forward part of the fuselage and burst into flames. Pilot Officer Hydes immediately seized the burning article and tried to jettison it but it slipped from his hands. He quickly obtained an extinguisher, however, by means of which he succeeded in putting out the flames. Pilot Officer Hydes acted with great promptitude and his action undoubtedly averted serious consequences.

Warrant Officer First Class James Talbert HOUSTON (Can/R.82755), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 428 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Warrant Officer Houston was the rear gunner of an aircraft detailed for a sortie one night in February, 1944. On the outward flight the aircraft was attacked by a fighter and some damage was sustained. Soon afterwards three more enemy aircraft were encountered but, each time, Warrant Officer Houston's clear and concise directions enabled his pilot to evade the enemy aircraft. When nearing the target the bomber was hit by shrapnel and Warrant Officer Houston was wounded in the shoulder. The oxygen point in his turret and the inter-communication system were rendered unserviceable. In spite of this, he remained at his post and, on the homeward flight, his vigilance and quick reports enabled his pilot to evade fighters on seven occasions. Warrant Officer Houston displayed great courage and devotion to duty and his efforts contributed materially to the success of the sortie.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

Can/R.155760 Flight Sergeant Douglas George LIGHTFOOT, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 57 Squadron.

As rear gunner, this airman has participated in a large number of sorties and has displayed great keenness and devotion to duty throughout. His constant vigilance has enabled his pilot to avoid combat on many occasions. On two occasions, whilst over Berlin, his aircraft was attacked by fighters but his good shooting and sound knowledge of tactics were mainly responsible for frustrating the attackers. His coolness and confidence in the face of the enemy have set a fine example.

1380552 Flight Sergeant William Henry PERRY, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 31 Squadron.

Flight Sergeant Perry has completed a large number of sorties involving the dropping of supplies to troops both by day and night. Throughout these operations he has displayed great keenness and determination. On one occasion his aircraft was hit in several places by anti-aircraft fire. Both air speed indicators were rendered useless but Flight Sergeant Perry completed the sortie successfully.

1432446 Sergeant Roy DIXON, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 101 Squadron.

One night in February, 1944, this airman piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Schweinfurt. It was his first operational sortie. During the operation his aircraft was attacked by a fighter. Displaying great skill, however, Sergeant Dixon manoeuvred to a position from which his gunners