

fighting qualities. He is an ideal leader, whose example has impressed all.

Acting Wing Commander Wilbur PLEASANCE (Can/C1395), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 419 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has displayed high powers of leadership, great skill and determination, qualities which have contributed in a large measure to the high standard of operational efficiency of the squadron he commands. Wing Commander Pleasance has taken part in very many sorties, including a number of mine-laying missions which he has completed with great success. His example has proved most inspiring.

Acting Squadron Leader Hugh Richard Ford DYER (Can/J.5699), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 419 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties, most of which have been against such well defended targets as Berlin, Nuremberg, Mannheim and Hanover. His ability and determination have always been apparent and have earned him much success. He is a model captain, whose personal example has contributed in a large way to the high standard of morale and efficiency of his flight.

Acting Squadron Leader William Alfred RUSSELL (Can/J.8041), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 408 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has taken part in a large number of sorties, including 9 attacks on the capital of the German Reich, 4 on Hamburg and others on the strongly defended targets of the Ruhr area. He is a gallant and skilful leader and he has contributed materially to the fine fighting qualities of the squadron. His determination and devotion to duty have been reflected in the successes obtained.

Acting Squadron Leader John Alfred WESTLAND (Can/J.9072), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 424 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has taken part in a large number of sorties, involving attacks on targets in the Ruhr area, Berlin, Hamburg and many other well defended targets. He has displayed inspiring leadership, great skill and courage, qualities which have earned him much success. He is a most able flight commander, whose keenness and devotion to duty have been most commendable.

Flight Lieutenant Reginald IVEY (122762), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 143 Squadron.

This officer has participated in a large number of sorties and has displayed great skill, courage and determination. In April, 1944, in an attack on a well armed convoy, Flight Lieutenant Ivey obtained hits on a trawler which caught fire. Throughout the fight, he displayed great determination and his skilful leadership played a good part in the success, achieved. This officer has displayed the greatest keenness to attack the enemy on every possible occasion, setting an excellent example.

Flight Lieutenant Kenneth Edward NAIISH (45447), Royal Air Force, No. 236 Squadron.

In April, 1944, this officer took part in an attack on a convoy off the Dutch Coast. At the commencement of his attack on an escort vessel, his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. One engine was set on fire but, despite this, Flight Lieutenant Naish pressed home a determined attack. Whilst putting out the flames from the burning engine, Flight Lieutenant Naish was heavily engaged by the anti-aircraft batteries both from the ships and from the shore. Although his aircraft was badly damaged he flew it safely to base where he effected a successful crash-landing. This officer displayed a high degree of skill, courage and resolution.

Acting Flight Lieutenant James ATKINS (Can/J.14000), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 429 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

One night in April, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Dusseldorf. When nearing the target the aircraft was attacked by a fighter and sustained much damage. One engine was put out of action, whilst other parts of the aircraft were so damaged that it became difficult to control and some height was lost. Nevertheless, Flight Lieutenant Atkins went on to the target and bombed it, afterwards flying the aircraft to base. In the face of heavy odds this officer displayed great skill determination and devotion to duty. He has completed a large number

of sorties against targets in Germany and has invariably pressed home his attacks with great resolution.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Noel MCPHAIL, D.F.M. (Aus. 413092), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 102 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Victor Francis Milton CARR (Aus. 422412), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 102 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Colin George ROBERTSON (Aus. 418570), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 102 Squadron.

As pilot and air gunners respectively these officers have completed a large number of sorties, involving a wide range of targets. They have invariably displayed a high standard of skill, courage and devotion to duty, qualities which were well illustrated during a recent mine-laying mission. Before reaching the target the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and sustained damage. Almost immediately the aircraft was intercepted by a fighter which attacked with much persistence. Flight Lieutenant McPhail manoeuvred with great skill, however, and Pilot Officers Carr and Robertson used their guns with great effect to drive off the attacker which is believed to have been shot down. These officers displayed great determination throughout.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Gerald William WOLTON (Can./J.18773), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 433 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed very many sorties against targets in Germany, including four on Berlin and three on Hamburg. He has invariably pressed home his attacks, setting an example of a high order. He is an efficient and courageous captain whose fine fighting spirit has contributed materially to the high standard of morale of his crews.

Flying Officer Arthur John Percival BYFORD (Can/J22142), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 419 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed very many sorties as captain and has displayed commendable skill, courage and resolution. On one occasion on the outward flight to Leipzig his aircraft was hit by cannon fire from a fighter. A large hole was torn in one of the wings, the hydraulic system was damaged, whilst part of the port rudder was shot away. Nevertheless, Flying Officer Byford continued to the target and bombed it, afterwards flying safely to base. His determination was characteristic of that he has shown throughout his tour.

Flying Officer Stephen William DEMPSEY (Can/J21039), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 408 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

As air bomber, this officer has completed a large number of sorties, including many against heavily defended and far distant targets. Throughout, he has displayed the greatest keenness and his example of courage and determination has been of a high order. He has proved himself to be a most valuable member of aircraft crew.

Flying Officer Lionel Henry James GEORGE (138213), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 15 Squadron.

This officer has completed numerous sorties on his second tour of operations. In the course of his activities he has participated in attacks on a wide range of targets, including four attacks on Berlin and seven on Essen. He is a wireless operator of high merit and his skill has contributed materially to the success of the operations in which he has taken part. He has displayed great courage, determination and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Frank Fletcher HAMILTON, D.F.M. (Can/J16121), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 424 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

In March, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Nuremberg. During the operation the aircraft was engaged by a fighter and, before the enemy could be evaded, the bomber was repeatedly hit by cannon and machine gun fire. The controls to the starboard engines were fused and one of the engines caught fire, whilst the constant speed unit was damaged. Considerable height was lost before Flying Officer Hamilton regained control. The aircraft was vibrating violently, however, and the situation was serious. At this stage the propeller of one of the damaged engines flew off and the aircraft became steadier