

Acting Squadron Leader Geoffrey MAY (86381), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 42 Squadron.

This officer has commanded the squadron for many months and, during the period, a very large number of sorties have been completed, involving attacks on difficult targets which have been bombed with notable success. Squadron Leader May has led the squadron on many of these missions and his great skill and gallant leadership has been most inspiring. He has rendered valuable service.

Acting Squadron Leader Arjan SINGH (IND/1577), Indian Air Force, No. 1 (I.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed very many operational missions, involving flights over difficult country, often in bad weather. He has displayed outstanding leadership, great skill and courage, qualities which have been reflected in the high morale and efficiency of the squadron which has won much success.

Flight Lieutenant William Arthur BIRD (84951), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 605 Squadron.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties, involving attacks on airfields, locomotives and other targets. He has displayed skill and courage of a high order, setting an excellent example. In the course of his activities, Flight Lieutenant Bird has destroyed 1 and damaged several more enemy aircraft; he has also inflicted damage on very many locomotives.

Flight Lieutenant Bransome Arthur BURBRIDGE (100067), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 85 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in very many sorties and has set a fine example of skill and resolution. He has shown the greatest keenness to engage the enemy and has shot down 4 enemy aircraft at night. Flight Lieutenant Burbridge has rendered much loyal and devoted service.

Flight Lieutenant Norman Sidney HEAD (66516), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 96 Squadron.

Flying Officer Arthur Charles ANDREWS (131662), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 96 Squadron.

As pilot and observer respectively these officers have completed many sorties. They have displayed great skill, keenness and co-operation and have destroyed 4 enemy aircraft at night, 2 of them in one sortie. Their example of devotion to duty has been most commendable.

Flying Officer John MacLaren GALBRAITH, G.M. (129258), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 502 Squadron.

One night in April, 1944, this airman piloted an aircraft on a reconnaissance. During the operation a force of 7 heavily armed ships was sighted. In the face of intense heavy and light anti-aircraft fire, Flying Officer Galbraith pressed home a most determined attack, setting one of the ships on fire. This officer has completed a very large number of sorties and has set a fine example of skill, bravery and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Robert Joseph GARRATT (136551), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 28 Squadron.

In air operations, this officer has displayed skill, courage and determination worthy of much praise. He has completed many difficult and dangerous sorties and has set an example which has impressed all.

Flying Officer Peter William HERON (Can/J.11139), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 407 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties, including many anti-submarine patrols. On 3 occasions he has engaged U-boats. On the last occasion in February, 1944, the submarine was sighted with decks awash and Flying Officer Heron at once pressed home a determined attack from extremely low level, straddling the vessel with a number of depth charges. This officer has invariably displayed a high degree of courage and tenacity.

Flying Officer Peter HULETSKY (Can/J.22196), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 418 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

As observer, this officer has taken part in a large number of sorties and has displayed the highest

standard of skill, courage and tenacity, qualities which have contributed materially to the successes obtained. His keenness to engage the enemy has always been evident and he has assisted in the destruction of several enemy aircraft.

Flying Officer George Norman MILLER (Can/J.21288), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 418 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of hours flying at night over enemy territory and has displayed commendable skill and gallantry. He has at all times shown the greatest keenness and his determination to complete his missions successfully has impressed all. He has destroyed at least 2 and assisted in the destruction of another enemy aircraft.

Flying Officer Alan MacGregor PEART (N.Z.412729), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 81 Squadron.

Flying Officer Peart is a keen and courageous fighter who has destroyed 5 enemy aircraft and damaged several more. He has taken part in a very large number of sorties and has set a fine example of devotion to duty throughout.

Flying Officer William Frederick Elystan THOMAS (132627), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 151 Squadron.

This officer has participated in a very large number of sorties at night and has assisted in the destruction of 3 enemy aircraft. He is a highly skilled observer, whose great keenness and devotion to duty have won high praise.

Pilot Officer George Edward BALL (170964), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 49 Squadron.

One night in May, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack a target in Northern France. Whilst on the bombing run the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. A blinding flash occurred and the fuselage became filled with smoke. The situation seemed hazardous and Pilot Officer Ball ordered his crew to don their parachutes but, at the same time a steady bombing run was maintained and the target was successfully attacked. As the bombs fell, the aircraft was attacked by a fighter and sustained damage in 2 engines; one of the petrol tanks was also hit and pierced. Pilot Officer Ball was unable to receive any manoeuvring directions from his gunners as the intercommunication system was unserviceable. Nevertheless, by diving steeply, and turning violently he succeeded in evading the attacker when almost at ground level. Although his aircraft was extensively damaged, Pilot Officer Ball flew on at tree top height and eventually reached base. He displayed skill, courage and tenacity of a high order.

Pilot Officer William BOOTH (156447), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 76 Squadron.

This officer has completed very many sorties against various targets in Germany. He has displayed a high standard of navigational ability throughout and has played a worthy part in the successes obtained. He has invariably displayed a high degree of courage and determination and his example has been worthy of emulation.

Warrant Officer 1st Class Charles Anderson WATT (Can/R.119127), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 28 Squadron.

Warrant Officer Watt has participated in very many sorties and has achieved much success. He has displayed high qualities of skill and courage and throughout has set an example of devotion to duty beyond praise.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Warrant Officer George Douglas KELSEY (1577998), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 151 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

132630 Flight Sergeant Jack PLAYFORD, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 151 Squadron.

Warrant Officer Kelsey and Flight Sergeant Playford have participated in very many sorties. As observer and pilot respectively they have displayed great skill and their example of keenness and determination to engage the enemy has been worthy of high praise. They have destroyed 2 enemy aircraft.