

Acting Flight Lieutenant Clifford Stanley CHATTEN (149529), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 97 Squadron.

One night in May, 1944, this officer was the pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack Brunswick. On the outward flight the aircraft was intercepted by a fighter but it was cleverly evaded. When nearing the target area, however, another fighter was encountered. As a result the bomber was severely damaged. The nose part was smashed. The air pressure thus caused blew out the windows at the side and most of the windscreen around the pilot's cupola. The navigational equipment, the wireless apparatus and the mid-upper turret were rendered useless, while 2 members of the crew were wounded. The cold was intense. Nevertheless, Flight Lieutenant Chatten was determined to complete the task for which he had flown so far. In the face of much anti-aircraft fire, and an attack by yet another fighter, he executed a successful bombing run and afterwards flew the damaged aircraft back to this country. This officer displayed skill, gallantry and devotion to duty of the highest order.

Flying Officer Peter Gerald West (150199), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 164 Squadron.

This officer was the pilot of one of a small formation of aircraft detailed to attack a ground target one morning in May, 1944. His objective was the destruction of a light gun position which menaced the success of the operation as a whole. In the execution of his task, Flying Officer West displayed such precision and resolution that the enemy gunners were unable to fire a single shell in defence of their position. His main task was accomplished but seeing the guns of another emplacement further west, Flying Officer West pressed home an attack on this position on which he expended the remainder of his ammunition. As he turned for home his aircraft was hit by a shell. Flying Officer West was severely wounded in the arm and leg, both limbs being rendered useless. His radio-telephone was put out of action. Nevertheless, this gallant pilot displayed the greatest coolness. With his good arm he lifted his maimed one above his head in an effort to decrease the flow of blood and set course for home. In this position he flew the aircraft to this country. Soon after crossing the coast he successfully effected a crash-landing in a field near a main road. This officer displayed courage, endurance and devotion to duty beyond praise.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant Robert Walter BRAY, D.F.C. (113927), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 205 Squadron.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross this officer has completed very many sorties and has continued to display the highest standard of skill and resolution. One night in May, 1944, he piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Leverkusen. When approaching the target the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire, causing damage to the port wing and engine nacelle. Considerable vibration ensued but, in spite of this, Flight Lieutenant Bray executed an accurate attack. The vibration became so pronounced that it became necessary to put the affected engine out of action. Height was being gradually lost and the aircraft became extremely difficult to control but Flight Lieutenant Bray flew on to reach this country. His tenacity was typical of that he had shown throughout the many sorties in which he has taken part.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Eric SPRAWSON (70638), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 106 Squadron.

This officer has completed numerous sorties and has set a fine example of skill, gallantry and resolution. One night in March, 1944, he piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Stuttgart. Whilst over the target area the aircraft sustained damage. The wireless apparatus was wrecked and the inter-communication system was put out of action but Squadron Leader Sprawson continued his bombing run and pressed home his attack. On another occasion in May, 1944, this officer took part in an attack on Brunswick. Before reaching the target his aircraft was attacked by a fighter. Although the bomber sustained damage the engagement ended with the destruction of the attacker.

Squadron Leader Sprawson then went on to the target which he attacked successfully. On the return flight the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and sustained further damage but Squadron Leader Sprawson flew it safely to base. His achievements have been worthy of the greatest praise.

Flight Lieutenant George Frank LAMBERT (63419), Royal Air Force, No. 35 Squadron.

In air operations this officer has displayed skill, courage and determination of a high order. He has completed a large number of sorties, including attacks on such targets as Berlin, Turin, Frankfurt and Cologne. His keenness has always been evident and his determination to bomb his targets successfully has won much praise.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Thomas RAWLINSON (168670), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 429 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed a notable tour during which he has attacked Berlin on 6 occasions. He has displayed the greatest keenness throughout, and his determination to make every sortie a success has won high praise. He is a model captain whose gallant example has been reflected in the fine spirit of his crews.

Flying Officer William George BRASNETT (Can/J. 23408), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 415 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Flying Officer Thomas Hugh PARNELL (129401), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 415 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

As pilot and navigator of aircraft respectively these officers have taken part in several attacks on shipping. On a recent occasion they attacked a number of enemy vessels off the French coast. In spite of intense anti-aircraft fire the attack was pressed home with skill and daring and a hit was obtained on one of the ships. Some hours later they successfully attacked another enemy vessel. These officers displayed a high degree of courage and determination throughout.

Flying Officer Gwilym Beynon ELLIS (157683), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 76 Squadron.

One night in May, 1944, Flying Officer Ellis piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Hasselt. On the outward flight the aircraft was engaged by a fighter and sustained damage before the enemy aircraft was driven off. Although one engine was useless and the port mainplane had received damage, Flying Officer Ellis went on to the target which he attacked with his usual determination. This officer, who is now on his second tour, has displayed exceptional keenness, great skill and courage.

Pilot Officer Stanley Enos CAMPBELL (Can/J.85691), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 408 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

As air gunner, this officer has taken part in very many attacks on a variety of well defended targets including eleven on Berlin. On one occasion in an operation against the German capital his aircraft was engaged by a fighter. Although the enemy attacked with much persistence, Pilot Officer Campbell directed the necessary combat manoeuvres with great skill. Finally, Pilot Officer Campbell delivered a well placed burst of fire and the attacker dived towards the ground enveloped in flames. He defended his aircraft with great coolness and confidence, qualities which have made him a most valuable member of aircraft crew.

Pilot Officer Frederick Walter COLE (170662), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 76 Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties, 6 of them being attacks on the German capital. He has invariably displayed great skill and perseverance and his example has been most commendable. Recently he took part in an attack on Hasselt. When over the target area his rear gunner warned him of the presence of an enemy aircraft. Pilot Officer Cole promptly manoeuvred to a position from which his gunners were able to deliver most effective bursts of fire which caused the enemy aircraft to fall away in a steep dive. Pilot Officer Cole then went on to attack his target. Although his aircraft was hit by shrapnel which tore away a large part of the port aileron, he pressed home a determined attack. This officer displayed devotion to duty of a high order.