

Flying Officer Geoffrey Ernest Charles ARCHER (124410), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 199 Squadron.

One night in August, 1943, this officer was the pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack Turin. When nearing the Alps on the outward flight, one of the bomber's engines failed. Despite this, Flying Officer Archer continued to the target which he bombed successfully. Shortly afterwards, Flying Officer Archer succeeded in re-starting the defective engine but soon after crossing the Alps on the return flight the engine again failed. Nevertheless Flying Officer Archer succeeded in flying the bomber to base. This officer displayed outstanding skill and determination, setting a commendable example.

Flying Officer Francis Scott BANNER (118153), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 243 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in many sorties and has invariably displayed great skill and tenacity. On one occasion, whilst attacking troops and transport the propeller of his aircraft was severely damaged by striking the ground. Despite this, Flying Officer Banner flew the aircraft to base. He has destroyed 4 enemy aircraft; one of them in an engagement against a superior number of fighters.

Flying Officer Robert Barson COWPER (Aus.407666), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 108 Squadron.

This officer has completed 68 sorties and has displayed great courage and determination. During a sortie in January, 1943, Flying Officer Cowper was compelled to make a forced landing behind the enemy's lines but he displayed great resource in outwitting the enemy and regained our own lines on foot. One night in July, 1943, he engaged a Junkers 88 and caused it to explode. The enemy aircraft disintegrated and a large portion struck and so disabled Flying Officer Cowper's aircraft that he was forced to leave it by parachute. He was later rescued from the sea and rejoined his squadron to resume operational flying. Since then, Flying Officer Cowper has destroyed another Junkers 88.

Flying Officer Aubrey Howard FERNIHOUGH (134506), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 37 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in 65 sorties, involving operations in North Africa, Pantellaria and Sicily. His work in the battle areas has been of the highest order and has been executed with great dash and daring. On one occasion he bombed the airfield at St. Marie du Zit with unerring skill. In more recent operations, Flying Officer Fernihough has participated in attacks on ports and other targets in Sicily, accomplishing excellent work. By his great skill, thoroughness and gallantry, this officer has set an example worthy of the highest praise.

Pilot Officer Lionel George SEARLE (16036), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 256 Squadron.

This officer has undertaken many sorties at night and, in recent operations over Sicily, has destroyed 3 enemy aircraft, two of them in one sortie. Pilot Officer Searle has displayed exceptional keenness and skill.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

968356 Flight Sergeant Francis Robert WILLIAMS, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 223 Squadron.

This airman has completed 40 sorties involving attacks on targets ranging from El Alamein to Tunisia and more recently against Pantellaria and Sicily. In July, 1943, during an attack on an airfield in Sicily, Flight Sergeant Williams was wounded in the chest in the course of the bombing run. Although in great pain, he remained at his post and released his bombs with good effect. Flight Sergeant Williams has displayed outstanding keenness and set a courageous example.

Air Ministry, 31st August, 1943.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards:—

Air Force Cross.

Wing Commander Alick FORD-KELCEY (36044), Royal Air Force.

Wing Commander Dudley Spencer RADFORD, D.F.C. (32233), Royal Air Force.

Squadron Leader Henry Arden CRÖMMELIN (12195), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

Squadron Leader John Sidney DANBY (70158), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

Squadron Leader William Edward HALL (70275), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

Squadron Leader Nigel Kenneth HOWARD (19138), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

Squadron Leader Sidney Packwood JACKSON (70344), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

Squadron Leader Ivan Rushby Dale MASTERS (Aus.260367), Royal Australian Air Force.

Squadron Leader Patrick Boileau POWELL (70551), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

Squadron Leader William Barrett THOMPSON (28239), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

Squadron Leader Elphinstone Docwra TURNER (22207), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

Acting Squadron Leader Richard John RALPH (79526), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Flight Lieutenant William ARNOTT (44683), Royal Air Force.

Flight Lieutenant Maurice Ivan COX (44189), Royal Air Force.

Flight Lieutenant Roy McCARTHY (81666), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Flight Lieutenant Alan Robert NOCK, D.F.C. (77737), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Flight Lieutenant Keith Edward ROBINSON, D.F.C. (Aus. 400031), Royal Australian Air Force.

Flight Lieutenant Gordon Carlyle WRIGHT (67031), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Flying Officer William Henry Wanstall LUCAS (122479), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Air Force Medal.

1127217 Flight Sergeant Charles George Keistian EDLUND, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

1385896 Flight Sergeant Nelson Edward FREEMAN, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

1188071 Flight Sergeant Douglas William PALMER, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

The KING has also been graciously pleased to give orders for the publication of the names of the following personnel who have been commended for valuable service in the air:—

Squadron Leaders.

A. E. BALLAM, A.F.M. (43626) (Acting), R.A.F.

E. C. OLDFIELD, A.F.C. (43189) (Acting), R.A.F.

L. E. BRAIN (Aus.260593), R.A.A.F.

N. M. PILCHER (Aus.750) (Acting), R.A.A.F.

Flight Lieutenants.

J. K. HORSBURGH (83219), R.A.F.V.R.

K. R. HUGHES (43287), R.A.F.

W. J. OLDACRE (86656), R.A.F.V.R.

R. G. SOLLARS (73281), R.A.F.V.R.

J. A. MALONEY (Aus.250504), R.A.A.F.

Flying Officers.

A. A. J. BANKS (125740), R.A.F.V.R.

W. L. JENNINGS (111227), R.A.F.V.R.

P. D. WRIGHT (121504), R.A.F.V.R.

Flight Sergeant.

Aus.407344 A. N. TURNER, R.A.A.F.

Air Ministry, 31st August, 1943.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

To be Plt. Offs. on prob. (emergency):—

Wt. Offs.

564062 Montague Ernest PRICE (52655). 3rd Mar. 1943.

580093 George Reginald WHEELDON (52651). 5th May 1943.

516998 Fred Albert SAUNDERS (52652). 20th May 1943.

580989 Richard John WELLS (52657). 16th June 1943.

523448 Leonard MACHELL (52654). 17th June 1943.

526177 William Henry WARWICK (52650). 24th June 1943.

Flt. Sgts.

642165 George NEWALL, D.F.M. (52664). 1st Apr. 1943.

630306 Joseph Henry ATKINSON (52644). 19th Apr. 1943.