

aircraft was damaged by anti-aircraft fire whilst over the target. Despite this, Pilot Officer King pressed home his attack and afterwards flew the damaged bomber to base where he effected a masterly landing. He has displayed great courage and devotion to duty.

Pilot Officer William Francis Cyril KNIGHT (155475), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 218 Squadron.

One night in August, 1943, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin. Just before reaching the target area whilst evading a fighter, Pilot Officer Knight saw another bomber being attacked by an enemy aircraft. Displaying commendable resource he dived to the attack and his front gunner drove off the enemy, thus enabling the second bomber to continue its mission. Pilot Officer Knight has taken part in many sorties against well defended targets and has pressed home his attacks with great determination. He has displayed great courage and devotion to duty.

Pilot Officer Donald Arthur MESSINGHAM (147707), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 23 Squadron.

This officer is a navigator of exceptional ability. He has taken part in very many sorties, during which rail installations, locomotives and shipping have been attacked with success. His work has been of a high standard throughout and has been reflected in the successes obtained.

Pilot Officer Peter Raymonde RUDD (147777), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 23 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Rudd is a tenacious and skilful pilot. In the course of his many sorties he has attacked locomotives, railway installations and shipping. On one occasion, in Sicily, he attacked an ammunition dump with complete success. On another occasion he shot down a Messerschmitt 210 whilst returning from a patrol. His keenness and efficiency have been highly commendable.

Pilot Officer William Lawrence WEBSTER (149900), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 83 Squadron.

This officer is a flight engineer of considerable skill. He has taken part in a large number of sorties and his efforts have contributed materially to the successes achieved. His keenness and exemplary conduct have been outstanding.

Acting Warrant Officer Paul Fulton CHESTERTON (1383472), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 103 Squadron.

As captain of aircraft, Warrant Officer Chesterton has undertaken many sorties over German territory and has attacked his targets fearlessly and skilfully, setting a very fine example. His great fighting spirit was amply demonstrated on one occasion when detailed to attack Oberhausen in June, 1943. When approaching the target area, the bomber was hit by anti-aircraft fire whilst illuminated by the searchlights. The elevator controls were severed and the ailerons became jammed, causing the aircraft to become temporarily unmanageable. Considerable height was lost before Warrant Officer Chesterton regained control. Undaunted, he went on to execute a determined attack. Displaying superb airmanship, this pilot succeeded in flying the badly damaged bomber to base. His courage and tenacity in the face of hazardous circumstances were beyond praise.

Distinguished Flying Medal

1179652 Flight Sergeant Albert William John HAZELL, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 236 Squadron.

This airman has completed very many sorties and has displayed great dash and determination in pressing home his attacks. In September, 1943, he participated in an attack on a heavily armed enemy convoy and his excellent efforts contributed materially to the success achieved. His keenness and devotion to duty have been most praiseworthy.

Can/R.135881 Flight Sergeant Robert Benjamin HICKS, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 83 Squadron.

Flight Sergeant Hicks is an air gunner of high merit. He has taken part in a large number of sorties and his skill and coolness in the face of enemy fire have been amply demonstrated on numerous occasions. He has proved himself to be a most dependable member of aircraft crew.

1093924 Flight Sergeant Charles Alfred KIRKHAM, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 76 Squadron.

1578404 Sergeant Harold Gordon FOSTER, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 76 Squadron.

1497991 Sergeant Alexander Bradford WARD, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 76 Squadron.

Flight Sergeant Kirkham and Sergeants Foster and Ward were pilot, navigator and bomb aimer respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Rheydt one night in August, 1943. When turning away from the target the bomber was raked by machine gun fire from a fighter. Flight Sergeant Kirkham was hit in the buttock and Sergeant Foster in the leg and the eye. The enemy aircraft made repeated attacks, but Flight Sergeant Kirkham evaded them and eventually flew clear. One of the bomber's engines had been put out of action and much essential equipment was damaged. A fire had started in the interior but fortunately did not spread; part of the outer covering of the aircraft also caught alight but Flight Sergeant Kirkham dived violently and the wind extinguished the flames. At the first opportunity, Sergeant Ward rendered first aid to the severely wounded navigator who had gallantly held to his post. Later Sergeant Ward took over the controls for a short spell while the pilot attended to his own wound. Flight Sergeant Kirkham finally flew the badly damaged bomber to this country and effected a crash landing at an airfield near the coast. In very trying circumstances these gallant airmen displayed courage, fortitude and determination of a high order.

N.Z. 41599. Flight Sergeant Pat MENZIES, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 83 Squadron.

As air gunner, Flight Sergeant Menzies has participated in very many sorties against strongly defended objectives. He has at all times displayed great coolness, while his vigilance and skill have, on more than one occasion, contributed materially to the safe return of his aircraft. He has set a praiseworthy example of courage and devotion to duty.

Aus.409321. Flight Sergeant William Yorke RICHARDSON, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 254 Squadron.

In September, 1943, this airman piloted an aircraft detailed to attack enemy shipping. During the operation the aircraft was hit by a shell. The wing tip was shattered, while the aileron became temporarily jammed. Nevertheless, Flight Sergeant Richardson retained control of the damaged aircraft and flew it to base. This airman has taken part in numerous sorties and his efficiency and keenness have been outstanding.

1390182. Flight Sergeant Jack William SLAUGHTER, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 83 Squadron.

This airman is a navigator of exceptional skill. He has completed many sorties, including several to far distant targets, and his excellent work has contributed materially to the successes achieved. Flight Sergeant Slaughter has displayed commendable coolness and courage and his confident example has proved inspiring.

1468513 Sergeant Kenneth James BAKER, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 15 Squadron.

One night in August, 1943, Sergeant Baker was the air bomber of an aircraft detailed to attack Munchen Gladbach. When leaving the target area the aircraft was engaged by a fighter and hit in several places by cannon shells, one of which killed the flight engineer. One of the petrol lines was pierced, causing a large quantity of petrol to leak away. Sergeant Baker, displaying praiseworthy initiative, took over the duties of his dead comrade. He correctly controlled the petrol cocks, thus conserving a considerable amount of fuel, and during the return flight kept close watch on the petrol lines. By his good judgment he assisted materially in the safe return of the aircraft. His coolness and initiative set an excellent example.

1389701 Sergeant Anthony Vernon RIPPENGAL, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 40 Squadron.

This airman is an outstanding captain, whose skill and keenness have been reflected in the many successes he has obtained. One night in June, 1943, he piloted an aircraft detailed to attack the dock area at Cagliari in Sardinia. Executing his task with great determination, Sergeant Rippengal