

Acting Squadron Leader Charles Woodward SMITH (Can/J.837r), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 408 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed very many sorties, including attacks on most of the enemy's well defended targets. He has invariably displayed skill and courage of a high order and his determination to achieve success has won great praise. He is a most efficient flight commander, whose leadership has been most inspiring.

Acting Squadron Leader John Alexander WHITTETT (84013), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 103 Squadron.

One night in January, 1944, this officer piloted one of a formation of aircraft which attacked Berlin. On the outward flight a fighter was encountered and, in the subsequent engagement, Squadron Leader Whittett's aircraft sustained damage to the tail plane, the port elevator and other parts of the structure; one engine was also put out of action. In spite of this Squadron Leader Whittett out-maneuvred the attacker and then went on to make a successful attack on the target. Although the aircraft was difficult to control, Squadron Leader Whittett flew safely to base where he effected a safe landing although a tyre on one of the landing wheels had been punctured by a bullet. This officer has invariably displayed praiseworthy skill and courage and his example has proved inspiring.

Flight Lieutenant Albert Edward KILSBY (102086), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 102 Squadron.

One night in January, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft which attacked Berlin. During the operation, his aircraft was attacked by a fighter. One engine was put out of action, the inter-communication system rendered unserviceable and other damage was sustained. Considerable height was lost during the homeward flight but Flight Lieutenant Kilsby succeeded in flying the badly damaged aircraft to base. This officer has completed a very large number of sorties and throughout his courage and determination have always been evident.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Sven Roy Walfrid LAINE (Can/J.18786), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 408 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has taken part in very many sorties, including 10 against the German capital. He is a skilful and resolute captain, whose fine fighting qualities have impressed all. On a recent occasion, whilst over Brunswick, his aircraft was hit and caught fire. Coolly and skilfully, Flight Lieutenant Laine overcame a difficult situation and then pressed home his attack with great determination. His great skill and resolution in trying circumstances contributed largely to the success of the sortie.

Pilot Officer Alan John BODGER (170721), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 576 Squadron.

This officer was the pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin one night in January, 1944. Whilst over the target a fire broke out behind the port inner engine but Pilot Officer Bodger continued his bombing run and executed a successful attack. Shortly after the bombs had been released, two more fires started. Both wings of the aircraft set alight and burned fiercely at first but soon afterwards died away. Although considerable height was lost, Pilot Officer Bodger flew the damaged aircraft to base. In the face of a harassing situation this officer displayed coolness and courage of a high order and his example was most inspiring.

Pilot Officer Frank Willis BURGESS (Can/J.19249), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 61 Squadron.

In December, 1943, this officer was the pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin. On the outward flight one of the aircraft's engines became useless. The rear turret was put out of action and some important equipment became unserviceable. Although the target was still some 250 miles distant, Pilot Officer Burgess continued to the target and made a successful attack, afterwards flying safely to base. His example of determination and devotion to duty was worthy of great praise. Pilot Officer Burgess has completed numerous sorties and has proved himself to be an efficient and understanding captain.

Pilot Officer Edgar Thompson JONES (Can/J.19171), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 103 Squadron.

This officer was the captain of an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin one night in January, 1944. During the operation the aircraft was intercepted by a fighter which attacked with much persistence. Pilot Officer Jones manoeuvred with great skill but his aircraft was repeatedly hit by cannon and machine-gun fire before the enemy aircraft could be evaded. One engine was disabled, the rear and mid-upper turrets were rendered unserviceable, the starboard tail plane, the elevator and the fuselage were damaged, while one of the bomb doors was almost shot away. Some stores caught fire but Pilot Officer Jones jettisoned the burning articles and course was set for home. The aircraft was difficult to control and some height was lost but, displaying great skill and determination, Pilot Officer Jones flew the damaged aircraft to base. In the face of a most trying situation he set a fine example of coolness and courage.

Pilot Officer Leonard Alfred MILLER (169725), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 15 Squadron.

This officer was the pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin one night in January, 1944. Early on the outward flight some important equipment became unserviceable. Nevertheless, Pilot Officer Miller continued to the target and successfully bombed it. Soon afterwards, the aircraft was intercepted by 2 fighters which attacked simultaneously. In the ensuing fight, Pilot Officer Miller manoeuvred with great skill to assist his gunners, who shot down one of the attackers. The bomber has been repeatedly hit, however, and sustained much damage. In spite of this, Pilot Officer Miller flew the aircraft to base. This officer displayed great skill, courage and determination throughout.

Warrant Officer Keith Griffith THOMAS (Aus.411079), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 227 Squadron.

Warrant Officer Thomas has participated in very many sorties, including many attacks on shipping during which he has caused the destruction of 5 caiques and medium sized merchant ship. He is a courageous and resolute pilot, whose keenness for operations has set a praiseworthy example. Warrant Officer Thomas has destroyed one and assisted in the destruction of three more enemy aircraft.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer William Scott BRECKENRIDGE (145784), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 626 Squadron.

Pilot Officer William Benjamin BAKER (170023), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 626 Squadron.

Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (Flying).

Warrant Officer Richard Jack MEEK (Can/R.138466), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 626 Squadron.

Flying Officer Breckenridge, Pilot Officer Baker and Warrant Officer Meek were pilot, mid-upper gunner and navigator respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin one night in January, 1944. Whilst over the target area, the aircraft was hit by bullets from a fighter. Much damage was sustained. The wireless operator was killed and the rear gunner was wounded; Pilot Officer Baker was also wounded, being hit in the face and rendered unconscious. Nevertheless, Flying Officer Breckenridge evaded the attacker and, displaying great determination, resumed his bombing run and successfully attacked the target. Almost immediately the bomber was again hit by machine gun fire from the enemy aircraft which had closed in. This time, Warrant Officer Meek was severely wounded. A bullet penetrated his breast close to the heart and another one hit him in the shoulder. Coolly and skilfully, Flying Officer Breckenridge manoeuvred his badly damaged aircraft, however, and finally evaded the attacker. By now, Pilot Officer Baker had recovered consciousness and, realising that the aircraft was unprotected, immediately made his way to the rear turret and manned it. In spite of his physical suffering, the intense cold and the lack of oxygen, Pilot Officer Baker remained in the turret throughout the homeward flight, except for a short time when he left it to extinguish a fire which had commenced. Meanwhile, Warrant Officer Meek,