

courage and resource, Sergeant Eastwood was mainly responsible for the safe return of the aircraft.

1260976 Sergeant Peter Arthur Charles McDERMOTT, No. 144 Squadron.

964391 Sergeant Jack Stewart BOUCHER, No. 144 Squadron.

In December, 1941, Sergeants McDermott and Boucher were captain and navigator respectively of one of a force of aircraft which attacked the battle cruisers at Brest in daylight. Whilst over the target area, intense and accurate defensive fire was encountered and the aircraft, being repeatedly hit, sustained much damage. Despite this, Sergeants McDermott and Boucher pressed home their attack and bombed the target from 1,000 feet. The explosion from an enemy shell stunned Sergeant Boucher, who was wounded in the face and eyes by flying fragments. Sergeant McDermott skilfully piloted his aircraft from the fire zone and, assisted by his wounded navigator who, although suffering intense pain, insisted on

directing his pilot, eventually flew back to an aerodrome in this country where a safe landing was effected. Both these airmen displayed skill and fortitude throughout. Some few days earlier, Sergeants McDermott and Boucher successfully carried out a difficult mine-laying mission in enemy waters.

910604 Sergeant Bernard Francis MOONEY, No. 236 Squadron.

940413 Sergeant Ian James PHILIP, No. 236 Squadron.

In December, 1941, Sergeants Mooney and Philip were the pilot and wireless observer respectively of an aircraft which carried out an important daylight reconnaissance. Defying heavy defences, Sergeant Mooney flew over the objective at a low altitude and most satisfactory results were obtained. Some days later, these airmen volunteered to carry out a daylight reconnaissance of another objective, and much valuable information was secured. Sergeants Mooney and Philip have executed many operational missions skilfully and efficiently.

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