

defended targets in Germany. He has fulfilled his duties admirably and has invariably displayed great determination and fortitude.

622819 Flight Sergeant George Henry WARD, No. 89 Squadron.

As observer, this airman has participated in many sorties in operations extending from Egypt to Tunisia. He has displayed great skill and courage throughout and has rendered fine service.

Aus.414290 Sergeant John Everard BINNIE, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 467 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron (since missing).

One night in June, 1943, this airman captained an aircraft detailed to attack Bochum. On the outward flight the bomber was twice attacked by fighters but, displaying great skill, Sergeant Binnie succeeded in frustrating them on each occasion. Although the rear turret was rendered unserviceable and damage was sustained to the fuselage, the wings and the tailplane, Sergeant Binnie flew on to the target and bombed it successfully, afterwards completing the return journey and effecting a safe landing in spite of a punctured tyre on the port wheel. This airman displayed superb airmanship, great courage and tenacity throughout.

Can/R.134085 Sergeant Lloyd George COLLINS, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 432 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This airman was the navigator of an aircraft which attacked Dortmund one night in May, 1943. Whilst over the target area, Sergeant Collins was wounded in the head and sustained a fracture of the skull. Although weakened by the loss of blood, he refrained from informing his captain of his injury until the target had been bombed and the aircraft was well clear of the area. Displaying outstanding fortitude, Sergeant Collins calmly executed his duties and plotted courses for the homeward flight. He did not desist until a safe landing had been effected when he collapsed and was removed to hospital in a semi-comatose condition. This airman set a fine example of courage, fortitude and devotion to duty.

Can/R.120080 Sergeant Stanley GAUNT, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 426 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

One night in May, 1943, this airman was the captain of an aircraft detailed to attack Dortmund. During the operation, the bomber was repeatedly hit by anti-aircraft fire whilst illuminated by searchlights. The hydraulic and inter-communication systems were rendered un-serviceable, whilst a fire broke out in the front turret and the cockpit filled with smoke. The flames were extinguished, however, and Sergeant Gaunt afterwards flew the damaged aircraft to this country. This airman displayed great courage, skill and coolness throughout.

527902 Sergeant Henry Edwin McALISTER, No. 148 Squadron.

This airman has successfully completed many operational missions. Despite several hazardous experiences, his zeal for operational duties has remained unabated whilst his courage, resourcefulness and endurance have been an inspiration to his comrades.

1371558 Sergeant John McCROSSAN, No. 50 Squadron.

935356 Sergeant John Thomas WILKINSON, No 50 Squadron.

Sergeants McCrossan and Wilkinson were pilot and flight engineer respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Wuppertal. Before the target was reached the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire, which rendered 1 engine ineffective and damaged another. Some height was lost but Sergeant McCrossan continued to the target and bombed it. The aircraft was again hit and much equipment was damaged, including the hydraulic system which prevented the bomb doors from being closed. The aircraft rapidly lost further height. All moveable equipment was jettisoned and sufficient altitude was maintained to enable Sergeant McCrossan to cross the enemy coast at 500 feet. Displaying superb airmanship he eventually reached base. During the return flight, Sergeant Wilkinson displayed great skill and resource and proved of considerable assistance to his pilot. These airmen set a fine example of courage and tenacity in difficult circumstances.

1005341 Sergeant John Harrison RANK, No. 77 Squadron.

One night in May, 1943, Sergeant Rank was captain of a bomber which was detailed to attack

Wuppertal. When nearing the target, the aircraft was hit by heavy anti-aircraft fire and damage was sustained which rendered the bomber difficult to control. Shortly afterwards the rear gunner reported the approach of an unidentified aircraft, and in most harassing circumstances Sergeant Rank was compelled to take evasive action. Still pursued, he pressed on to the target and made a successful and determined attack. Photographs showed that his bombs fell on the aiming point. During the attack the pursuing aircraft was evaded and course was set for base where a difficult landing was made with superb skill. Sergeant Rank displayed high courage and great determination to complete his task successfully.

1389527 Sergeant Albert Arthur SKINNER, No. 7 Squadron.

In May, 1943, Sergeant Skinner was the rear gunner of an aircraft detailed to attack a heavily defended enemy target. When nearing the objective the bomber was attacked by an enemy night fighter. Although painfully wounded about the head, face and left arm, Sergeant Skinner fought back repeated attacks directing such accurate and telling fire that the enemy aircraft broke off the combat and appeared to fall out of control. Sergeant Skinner's cool courage and skilful shooting contributed much to the safe return of his aircraft to base.

1078049 Sergeant Arthur Noel STOCKDALE, No. 70 Squadron.

This airman has completed a large number of sorties and has displayed praiseworthy skill and tenacity throughout. This was amply demonstrated on one occasion when attacking a heavily defended concentration of vehicles in the vicinity of Mareth. In spite of considerable anti-aircraft fire and searchlight activity, Sergeant Stockdale executed his bombing from a low level causing much destruction. His fine fighting spirit and courageous example have been a source of inspiration.

950785 Sergeant Bernard James Ivatt WALKER, No. 77 Squadron.

In air operations, Sergeant Walker displayed courage, skill and fortitude in keeping with the highest traditions of the Royal Air Force.

Can/R.99773 Sergeant James Mills McKay WILLIAMS, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 77 Squadron.

One night in May, 1943, Sergeant Williams was rear gunner in an aircraft which took part in an attack on Dusseldorf. During the bombing run over the target the bomber was twice attacked by a Junkers 88. Violent evasive action was taken and the aircraft went out of control but control was regained and course set for base after height of some 5,000 feet had been lost. Later Sergeant Williams sighted 2 Messerschmitt 109's flying a parallel course with the bomber, one on the port side and the other on the starboard side and he gave avoiding directions to his captain. As the bomber was turned Sergeant Williams sighted a third enemy fighter climbing to attack. He brought his guns to bear on the attacker and with a short and well directed burst of fire caused the enemy aircraft to break away emitting smoke and flames. The remaining enemy aircraft did not then attack. Sergeant Williams displayed great courage and skill which contributed much to the safe return of his aircraft to base.

1335799 Sergeant Ronald Howard WILLIS, No. 7 Squadron.

During an operational sortie one night in May, 1943, this airman's aircraft was engaged by an enemy fighter. Repeated attacks were made during which Sergeant Willis and 3 members of his crew were wounded and the aircraft was severely damaged. Despite his wounds, Sergeant Willis kept control of the bomber and after skilfully evading the enemy fighter set course for home. He had no serviceable navigational instruments and steered a rough course by the stars. By skilful airmanship he successfully flew his damaged aircraft to this country where he made a safe landing and not until then did he report his wounds. In extremely harassing circumstances this gallant airman set a sterling example of fortitude and devotion to duty.