

developed on the outward flight and soon the port engines were overheating to a dangerous degree. Nevertheless, this officer flew on to Berlin and made a successful attack. His determination on this occasion was typical of that he has shown throughout his tour.

Wing Commander Dudley Thomas FORSYTH (Aus 141), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 466 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has taken part in many attacks on strongly defended targets and has displayed a high degree of skill, courage and resolution. One night in January, 1944, he piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin. Early on the outward flight the air-speed indicator became unserviceable. A little later, his navigator became deprived of the use of some of his instruments. These difficulties in no way deterred Wing Commander Forsyth who flew on to the German capital and pressed home his attack. He has always displayed the greatest determination to make every sortie a success.

Flight Lieutenant Lance Neville AHERN (Aus.402781), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 112 Squadron.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties and has invariably displayed a high degree of skill and courage, qualities which have been well illustrated on many recent occasions. One day in April, 1944, he flew with much distinction in a successful attack on ground targets. The next morning, Flight Lieutenant Ahern led a formation of aircraft in an attack on shipping during which an enemy motor vessel was sunk. The same afternoon he led the squadron in an engagement against a number of fighters, 3 of which were shot down. By his inspiring leadership and outstanding determination, Flight Lieutenant Ahern contributed materially to the successes obtained.

Flying Officer Arthur Gordon PLUMMER (Can/J 14032), Royal Canadian Air Force, No 420 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

One night in March, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Stuttgart. When some 200 miles from the target one engine failed and the aircraft lost much height. Although he knew that he would arrive at the target after the main bomber force, Flying Officer Plummer flew on to Stuttgart and pressed home a successful attack. His determination to complete his allotted task in the face of much difficulty set an excellent example.

Pilot Officer John Douglas MORTIMER (172572), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 100 Squadron.

One night in April, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed for a mine-laying mission. On the return flight the aircraft was attacked by a Junkers 88. The first burst of machine gun fire from the enemy's guns caused considerable damage to the tail planes and the ailerons. The tail trimming gear was wrecked, the hydraulic system was rendered useless, whilst one engine was set on fire. Considerable height was lost but Pilot Officer Mortimer regained control. Although the enemy continued to attack with much persistence, Pilot Officer Mortimer manoeuvred his badly damaged aircraft with great skill and finally evaded the attacker, afterwards flying safely to base. This officer displayed praiseworthy courage and determination and his skill was undoubtedly responsible for the safe return of the aircraft and its crew.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flying Officer Paul Ernest SINCLAIR (Aus.420288), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 76 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

948247 Flight Sergeant David Ellis BLOCKLEY, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 76 Squadron.

This officer and airman were pilot and rear gunner respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Nuremberg one night in March, 1944. On the outward flight, Flight Sergeant Blockley sighted a fighter coming in to attack and promptly warned his pilot. Coolly and skilfully, Flying Officer Sinclair manoeuvred to a good position from which Flight Sergeant Blockley delivered a burst of machine gun fire which hit the enemy aircraft, causing it to explode. Flying Officer Sinclair then resumed his course to the target and executed

a successful attack. This officer and airman displayed much skill and excellent co-operation and proved themselves to be valiant members of aircraft crew. They have completed many sorties.

*Air Ministry, 5th May, 1944.*

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

*Distinguished Service Order.*

Acting Squadron Leader Richard Lionel Cyril BLYTH, D.F.C. (112689), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No 544 Squadron.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Richard Cecil PATRICK, D.F.C. (41457), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 206 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Michael George BIRT (41368), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 27 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Charles Gordon Drake LANCASTER (75989), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 228 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Francis Noel JOHNSTON (75709), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 204 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant William John Newton LEE (112434), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 5 Squadron (since deceased).

Flight Lieutenant John Raymond WEEDS (119824), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 224 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Neville CARPENTER (127135), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 220 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant David Whitworth MUNSON (133835), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 236 Squadron.

Flying Officer John Alfred BELL (126487), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 58 Squadron.

Flying Officer Alec CHILTON (125473), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 179 Squadron.

Flying Officer John Stanley EDWARDS (149965), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 224 Squadron.

Flying Officer Donald FINLAYSON (145488), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 502 Squadron.

Flying Officer Ronald Henry HUMPHREY (149341), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 224 Squadron.

Flying Officer Douglas PHILLIPS (143573), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 58 Squadron.

Flying Officer Eric RAMSBOTTOM (145853), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 236 Squadron.

Flying Officer Patrick James Forrest ROSS (138429), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 235 Squadron.

Flying Officer Eric Harold SMITH, D.F.M. (146441), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 220 Squadron.

Warrant Officer Arthur DARLING (967173), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 502 Squadron.

Warrant Officer Frank Ernest WILDING (1015523), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 136 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1016897 Flight Sergeant Harold ARCHER, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 502 Squadron.

577711 Flight Sergeant Cyril Charles MAWER, Royal Air Force, No. 201 Squadron.

1387599 Flight Sergeant Cyril Arthur SMITH, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 404 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant Neville BARSON (Aus.400457), No. 59 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Clarence Charles CLARK (Aus.411679), No. 10 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Flying Officer Maxwell Henry PAYNTER (Aus.407752), No. 612 Squadron.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE.

*Distinguished Service Order.*

Acting Wing Commander Charles Graham RUTTAN (Can/C.871), No. 415 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.