

the rear turret was put out of action and the starboard elevator and the tailplane were damaged. Flight Lieutenant Probert went on to complete his task successfully.

Flying Officer Wallace McINTOSH, D.F.M. (149980), R.A.F.V.R., 207 Sqn.

Pilot Officer Clarence Bentley SUTHERLAND (Can/J.86114), R.C.A.F., 207 Sqn.

One night in June, 1944, these officers were rear and mid-upper gunners respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Cerisy. Just after crossing the enemy coast, Flying Officer McIntosh sighted a Junkers 88 coming in to attack. He promptly warned his pilot who took the necessary combat manoeuvre. Both gunners then opened fire, hitting the enemy aircraft with well placed bursts, causing it to spin towards the ground with both its engines on fire. Almost immediately another Junkers 88 was sighted. As the enemy aircraft came into close range, Flying Officer McIntosh and his co-gunner met the attacker with devastating bursts of fire which caused it to explode in the air. Half an hour later, these gunners engaged yet a third enemy aircraft. Following their accurately placed bursts of fire the enemy fighter fell away and was seen to catch fire before it hit the sea. Flying Officer McIntosh and Pilot Officer Sutherland defended their aircraft with great skill and resolution and undoubtedly played a large part in its safe return. Their achievement was worthy of high praise.

Flying Officer Laurence SHERMAN (Can/J.10591), R.C.A.F., 162 Sqn.

Recently this officer captained an aircraft which attacked a U-boat. In spite of heavy fire from the submarine's guns, Flying Officer Sherman pressed home his attack with great determination. His depth charges were released with such accuracy that within a few minutes of the ex-

plosions, the U-boat sank. In this well executed operation, Flying Officer Sherman displayed courage and coolness of a high order.

Warrant Officer James Muter CUNNINGHAM (1560849), R.A.F.V.R., 106 Sqn.

Warrant Officer Cunningham is a most determined and gallant captain of aircraft. He has participated in very many sorties against targets important to the enemy's war effort. On several occasions his aircraft has been damaged by anti-aircraft fire whilst over the target area. Despite this, he has persisted in his task and completed his mission successfully. He has set a fine example of courage and devotion to duty.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

Aus. 420268 Flight Sergeant John Charles PAYNE, R.A.A.F., 455 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

This airman has participated in numerous sorties, including several attacks on shipping. He is a highly efficient and devoted member of aircraft crew, whose confidence and determination have greatly inspired his crew. On a recent occasion, when nearing base at the conclusion of a sortie, his aircraft commenced to vibrate violently. Soon afterwards it went into a spiral dive but Flight Sergeant Payne succeeded in regaining control. It was then discovered that the starboard elevator had broken away and was suspended in the air flow by the control wire. It seemed as though the aircraft would have to be abandoned as once more control was lost and the aircraft went into a steep dive. Flight Sergeant Payne succeeded in levelling out though, and as there seemed a slight improvement in control, he resolved to try and save the aircraft. Seven times in all the aircraft dived but this intrepid pilot succeeded in reaching base where he effected a masterly landing. He set an example of the highest order.

LONDON

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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1944

Price Sixpence net

S.O. Code No. 65-36603