

Flight Lieutenant George Oliver Samuel WHITTY (108172), R.A.F.V.R., 296 Sqn.

This officer has displayed the greatest keenness for operations and has proved himself to be a skilful and resolute member of aircraft crew. On the night of 5th June, 1944, he piloted an aircraft detailed to transport paratroops to the dropping zone in the earliest stage of the opening phase of the Allied invasion of Northern France. In the execution of his difficult task this officer displayed great skill and accuracy and his effort contributed materially to the success of the later airborne landings. Flight Lieutenant Whitty has completed many sorties and has invariably displayed courage and devotion to duty of a high order.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Walter John BELL (174025), R.A.F.V.R., No. 15 Squadron.

One night early in June, 1944, Flight Lieutenant Bell was pilot and captain of an aircraft detailed to attack a target in France. Shortly after bombing the target, he encountered two Messerschmitt 410s. One of these, approaching from the port, was driven off by the gunners. At the same time the second opened fire and caused severe damage to the aircraft from cannons and machine guns. The gunners opened fire and hit the Messerschmitt on the fuselage. It dived and exploded in the air. A cannon shell had however, exploded in the fuselage of Flight Lieutenant Bell's aircraft. The navigator was killed and the pilot sustained a slight injury. Part of the starboard wing was shot away, carrying with it the starboard aileron. The starboard inner engine then caught fire. The front turret and instrument board were out of action and the brakes and flaps unserviceable. In this precarious position however, with assistance from the bomb aimer who took over the navigator's tasks, Flight Lieutenant Bell, though in pain from his wound, by skilful and determined aimanship succeeded in flying the damaged aircraft back to this country and executed a difficult crash landing with great coolness.

Acting Flight Lieutenant George Martin BURCHER, D.F.M. (Aus.420536), R.A.A.F., No. 10 Squadron.

This officer has carried out many successful sorties during which he has attacked a variety of enemy targets. On a recent occasion he piloted an aircraft detailed to attack an airfield. Early on the outward flight one engine failed but with his usual determination, Flight Lieutenant Burcher went on to the target and executed a successful attack. Flight Lieutenant Burcher is a most efficient and outstanding captain whose fine fighting qualities and personal courage have greatly inspired his crews.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Geoffrey Maurice CLAYDON (160630), R.A.F.V.R., No. 15 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Claydon has completed numerous operational sorties and has always shown a high order of leadership, determination and courage. One night in April, 1944, while making his bombing run over Dusseldorf his aircraft was engaged by searchlights. With skill and coolness he managed to evade them and complete his mission successfully. A few days later he was detailed to attack Karlsruhe. On the outward flight, severe icing and electrical storms were encountered. Despite these adverse circumstances, however, Flight Lieutenant Claydon pressed home his attack and successfully bombed the target. These incidents are typical of the determination which this officer has invariably displayed in the face of the enemy.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Dellis DAVIES (133620), R.A.F.V.R., No. 78 Squadron.

One night early in June, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft in an attack on a railway junction at Juvisy. During the operation the aircraft was attacked by a fighter and sustained serious damage. A fire started in the fuselage but other members of the crew succeeded in extinguishing the flames. The aircraft became difficult to control and height was being gradually lost. Nevertheless, Flight Lieutenant Davies held resolutely to his course and finally reached an airfield in this country. He displayed great skill, courage and tenacity.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Edward John MOORE (Aus.414288), R.A.A.F., No. 15 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Moore has proved himself an outstanding pilot and captain of aircraft. He has

completed numerous bombing attacks on important targets in enemy territory. One night in April, 1944, after delivering a successful attack on Essen, the mid-upper turret of his aircraft became unserviceable and later, the starboard outer engine caught fire. Flight Lieutenant Moore succeeded in putting out the fire, feathered the engine and flew the aircraft safely to base without further incident. On all his missions this officer has displayed great keenness and courage in the face of the enemy.

Acting Flight Lieutenant William RODNEY (Can/J.27015), R.C.A.F., No. 78 Squadron.
Pilot Officer Harold Frederick GRIMBLE (Can/J.27282), R.C.A.F., No. 78 Squadron.

Early in June, 1944, these officers were pilot and air bomber respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack railway sidings at Juvisy. Whilst over the target the aircraft was struck by bullets from a fighter and sustained much damage. The navigator was killed whilst Flying Officer Grimble was badly wounded in the legs. Almost immediately the aircraft was subjected to considerable anti-aircraft fire which Flight Lieutenant Rodney succeeded in evading by coming down to almost tree-top height. He afterwards flew the damaged aircraft to base. On the return flight he received great assistance from Flying Officer Grimble who, in spite of the severity of his injuries, insisted on helping his captain to navigate the aircraft home. These officers displayed a high degree of gallantry and devotion to duty.

Acting Flight Lieutenant William John TAGGART (Aus.413041), R.A.A.F., No. 156 Sqn.

In May, 1944, Flight Lieutenant Taggart was captain of an aircraft detailed to attack railway sidings in France. The success of this effective attack was largely attributable to the coolness and efficiency which this officer displayed in the face of heavy defences. Throughout his many successful sorties, this officer has displayed the greatest courage and determination. He has had two combats with enemy night fighters.

Flying Officer Harold William BARNHART (Can/J.14199), R.C.A.F., 428 (R.G.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has always maintained an exceptionally high standard of skill and efficiency as a navigator. He has completed many successful sorties against the enemy. On one mission to Hanover, all navigational aids failed in his aircraft soon after the take off. By extremely accurate astro navigation however, he was able to guide his crew to the target, arriving at exactly the correct moment and thus contributing much to the success of the attack. He subsequently completed an attack on Berlin in similar circumstances. Throughout his operational career this officer has maintained a high standard of efficiency, ability and enthusiasm.

Flying Officer Joseph Scarisbrick EKBERY (145863), R.A.F.V.R., 145 Sqn.

While engaged in a recent operation, Flying Officer Ekbery's aircraft formed part of a formation of 8 aircraft which attacked a force of 25 Focke Wulfs and Messerschmitt 109s. During the ensuing combat he became separated from the rest of his squadron. Seeing 6 enemy aircraft beneath him, he immediately attacked, and though alone and deep in enemy territory, he forced them to jettison their bombs and pressed home his attack with such vigour that he succeeded in destroying 2 of the enemy before himself returning unscathed. This officer is now on his 2nd tour of operational duty and has destroyed 6 enemy aircraft and damaged others.

Flying Officer William Wishart ROBSON (Can/J.14214), R.C.A.F., No. 428 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed many attacks against the enemy as navigator with outstanding success. On one occasion, during a mission to Kassel all navigational aids and the interior lighting system of the aircraft failed, but by the use of astro-navigation, the target was reached and a successful attack was completed. On one occasion, Flying Officer Robson was detailed for an important operation the success of which largely depended on accurate timing. When still at some distance from the objective, the aircraft lost speed owing to the failure of one engine. Flying Officer Robson quickly picked out an alternative shorter route and, by skilful navigation, guided the aircraft to