

Flying Officer Wilfred John BANKS (Can/J.12311), R.C.A.F., 412 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed many sorties. He has invariably displayed a high degree of skill and courage and is a keen and resolute pilot. Flying Officer Banks has destroyed six enemy aircraft, three of them on one sortie.

Flying Officer John Stewart CHRISTIE (157629), R.A.F.V.R., 410 Sqn.

This officer has participated in many sorties as observer, involving attacks against enemy airfields, locomotives and barges. On a recent occasion, Flying Officer Christie assisted in the destruction of a Junkers 88 which exploded in the air with such violence that his own was so severely damaged that it could no longer be flown. Flying Officer Christie descended safely by parachute and was rescued from his dinghy six hours later. This officer has invariably displayed a high degree of courage and determination.

Flying Officer Antoine Andre DUCHESNAY (Can/J.11502), R.C.A.F., 10 Sqn.

In air operations this officer has displayed skill, courage and devotion to duty of the highest order.

Flying Officer James Frederick Guy STONHAM (159398), R.A.F.V.R., 150 Sqn.

One night in July, 1944, this officer was captain of an aircraft detailed for mining operations in the Danube. This involved very difficult flying along a predetermined course and against extremely heavy ground defences. Nevertheless, Pilot Officer Stonham determinedly pressed home his attack and successfully laid his mines in the correct position. In so doing he received severe wounds in the head from anti-aircraft fire and his navigator and wireless operator were also injured. The aircraft sustained considerable damage and much equipment was destroyed. The undercarriage and flaps were rendered inoperative and many navigational aids were lost. Despite his own injuries and almost complete lack of flying instruments, Pilot Officer Stonham successfully flew his damaged aircraft over the Yugoslav mountains and reached the enemy coast. He then set a new course for base where he effected a masterly landing. This officer has completed numerous sorties and he has invariably displayed courage, determination and devotion to duty of a high order.

Flying Officer George William Eric WOOLLEY (50515), R.A.F., 254 Sqn.

This officer has participated in a large number of operational missions and has set a fine example of determination and devotion to duty. In August, 1944, he took part in an attack on a heavily defended concentration of enemy shipping south of the Norwegian coast. By his exceptional navigational ability, Flying Officer Woolley contributed in good measure to the success of the operation.

Acting Flying Officer Eric Walter FOX (177010), R.A.F.V.R., 578 Sqn.

This officer has completed many sorties against a variety of targets. He has displayed great keenness and enthusiasm and by his example and leadership has brought his crew to a high standard of operational efficiency. In August, 1944, Flying Officer Fox was captain of an aircraft detailed to attack the Foret de Nieppe. Early on the outward flight the controls became difficult to manipulate. An inspection was made but the fault could not be traced. Flying Officer Fox attempted to gain height but soon afterwards the aircraft became uncontrollable. The starboard wing dropped to an acute angle. The control column was wrenched from the pilot's hands and the wheel swung violently from side to side. He was unable to stop it. At this stage a member of the crew reported that the starboard aileron was vertical and that the port aileron was hanging loosely. Flying Officer Fox ordered his crew to leave by parachute and after they had left he flew the aircraft for a further six minutes before jumping himself. In most trying circumstances this officer displayed great courage and resolution.

Acting Flying Officer James Ernest GIBBERD (Aus.415639), R.A.A.F., 61 Sqn.

This officer has completed many sorties and has invariably displayed courage and devotion to duty. One night in July, 1944, he was captain

of an aircraft detailed to attack Givors. Shortly before reaching the target the aircraft was attacked by a fighter, sustaining damage. An engine became unserviceable whilst a second engine and wing surface were hit. Undeterred Flying Officer Gibberd went on to attack the target with his usual determination. The return flight was made through very bad storms but a successful landing was made at base.

Pilot Officer Richard Neville HANSELL (173340), R.A.F.V.R., 300 Sqn.

This officer has completed very many sorties. He is an extremely keen and excellent leader who has at all times displayed the greatest determination. One night in July, 1944, he was captain of a bomber detailed to attack Stuttgart. En route, the aircraft was attacked by a fighter. Pilot Officer Hansell skilfully manoeuvred his aircraft and with a well directed burst of fire by the mid-upper gunner, the enemy was shot down in flames. A number of navigational aids were lost in the action but this officer determined to complete his mission, flew on to Stuttgart and bombed his objective successfully. On the return flight, the aircraft was again attacked by a fighter but displaying great presence of mind Pilot Officer Hansell evaded the attack and returned safely to base.

Pilot Officer David Robert Charles JAMIESON (Can/J.19196), R.C.A.F., 412 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer is now on his second tour of operations. He has completed a large number of sorties and has displayed exceptional keenness to engage the enemy. He has destroyed 5 enemy aircraft, two of these in one combat.

Pilot Officer Gerald Henry James LEONARD (173235), R.A.F.V.R., 158 Sqn.

Pilot Officer Donald Ross CROMARTY (176589), R.A.F.V.R., 158 Sqn.

One night in March, 1944, these officers were pilot and navigator respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Stuttgart. In the bombing run their aircraft was caught in the full blast of a burst of heavy anti-aircraft fire. The force of the explosion turned the aircraft upside down, shattering the interior lighting and everything movable was thrown about the aircraft. Out of control, the bomber lost considerable height but displaying great skill and coolness Pilot Officer Leonard regained an even keel and flew on to his target which was bombed successfully. By magnificent improvisation Pilot Officer Cromarty calculated courses and directed the aircraft safely back to base. These officers have completed many sorties and have set a fine example throughout.

Pilot Officer Norman Leslie MERRETT (Aus.416446), R.A.A.F., 609 Sqn.

This officer has completed many sorties including attacks against strongly defended enemy targets. In a recent sortie he was the leader of a section of aircraft detailed to attack a mortar position holding up the allied ground advances near Caen. Very heavy enemy opposition was encountered from the ground defences and the aircraft sustained severe damage. Nevertheless Pilot Officer Merrett flew on and successfully silenced the position. Pilot Officer Merrett is an exceptionally efficient member of aircraft crew.

Pilot Officer Kenneth Gordon SLADE-BETTS (175509), R.A.F.V.R., 3 Sqn.

Pilot Officer Slade-Betts has completed a large number of sorties many of them against enemy shipping, industrial targets and enemy airfields. He has at all times displayed the highest standard of courage and resolution in pressing home his attacks and has inflicted much loss on the enemy. Pilot Officer Slade-Betts has destroyed 20 flying bombs.

Pilot Officer James Neale THORNE (175902), R.A.V.F.R., 122 Sqn.

This officer has a notable operational record. He has completed many sorties, inflicting much damage on the enemy. In a recent engagement, against a superior force of enemy aircraft, Pilot Officer Thorne personally destroyed two and damaged another. He is a skilful and resolute pilot and has displayed a fine fighting spirit. He has destroyed 5 enemy aircraft.

Warrant Officer Dennis GOSLING (999332), R.A.F.V.R., 604 Sqn.

This officer has participated in many sorties. He is an extremely efficient observer and has