

Flight Lieutenant John Roshier Stirling HALFORD (102147), R.A.F.V.R., 274 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Halford is an energetic and fearless leader who has completed a very large number of operations with gallantry and determination. Among his successes is the destruction of 4 enemy aircraft.

Flight Lieutenant Walter Reginald SMITH (44685), R.A.F., 76 Sqn.

As air gunner and more recently as captain of aircraft, Flight Lieutenant Smith has participated in very many sorties, involving attacks on heavily defended targets in Germany, Italy and Poland. Throughout he has displayed great gallantry and skill, and his determination to complete his missions successfully has set a splendid example.

Flight Lieutenant Alexander McKay Sinclair STEEDMAN (123469), R.A.F.V.R., 241 Sqn.

This officer has completed many reconnaissance sorties over Central Italy and Yugoslavia. On numerous occasions he has flown across heavily defended enemy harbours and has brought back accurate and valuable information of enemy shipping activity. On one occasion he was largely responsible for the destruction or setting on fire of 16 vehicles of an enemy convoy. Flight Lieutenant Steedman has displayed exceptional keenness and determination and he has set a fine example to his squadron.

Flight Lieutenant John Clarke SURMAN (64929), R.A.F.V.R., 604 Sqn.

Pilot Officer Clarence Edwin WESTON (178927), R.A.F.V.R., 604 Sqn.

These officers have set a fine example of determination and devotion to duty. Their keenness to engage the enemy has been a great feature throughout their tour. They have destroyed 5 enemy aircraft at night.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Robert Webb KIMPTON (Aus.415335), R.A.A.F., 455 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer is a capable and courageous pilot. He has taken part in very many anti-shipping sorties during which several enemy vessels of varying types have been severely damaged. The coolness, initiative and balanced judgment of Flight Lieutenant Kimpton have been most commendable.

Flying Officer William Pembroke BELL (N.Z.421006), R.N.Z.A.F., 620 Sqn.

One night in August, 1944, this officer captained an aircraft engaged on an operational mission. When close to the enemy coast his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and the rear gunner was wounded. A little later one of the engines became defective. While over the sea two more engines became useless. This pilot was compelled to bring his aircraft down on to the sea, a task he accomplished with great skill. The crew got safely aboard the dinghy from which they were rescued by a launch, one and a half hours later. In trying circumstances this officer displayed courage and leadership of a high degree.

Flying Officer Donald Ralph CAMPBELL (Can/J.24406), R.C.A.F., 196 Sqn.

This officer has completed numerous sorties and has invariably displayed a high degree of courage and devotion to duty. On one occasion, in August, 1944, en route to the target, engine trouble developed. Nevertheless, he went on to reach the target. Whilst over the sea on the homeward flight the propeller of the defective engine flew off. It fouled a second engine, rendering it useless. The aircraft could no longer be flown but Flying Officer Campbell brought it down safely on to the sea. He displayed resolution characteristic of that which he has shown throughout his tour of duty.

Flying Officer William Harvey CHAPPELL (158578), R.A.F.V.R., 190 Sqn.

Flying Officer Chappell has set a fine example of keenness, courage and devotion to duty. Early in his operational career he was injured when forced to land his badly damaged aircraft in adverse circumstances. On his recovery he resumed operational flying with undiminished keenness and since has completed very many sorties. He has shown the greatest determination in pressing home his attacks and has won much success.

Flying Officer Colin Edwin Cock (Aus.415510), R.A.A.F., 455 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Flying Officer Cock has participated in a large number of sorties including many attacks on enemy convoys. He is a skilful and courageous pilot who has successfully accomplished his opera-

tional sorties regardless of heavy enemy opposition and adverse weather.

Flying Officer Rodney DRYLAND (162837), R.A.F.V.R., 3 Sqn.

Flying Officer Dryland has completed a large number of sorties against a wide variety of targets including many attacks against strongly defended enemy shipping convoys. He has at all times pressed home his attacks with great determination and his courage and enthusiasm have been an inspiration to all. This officer has destroyed 18 flying bombs, five of which he destroyed in one day.

Flying Officer William James GREY (156649), R.A.F.V.R., 125 Sqn.

Flying Officer Andrew Joseph MILLAR (159700), R.A.F.V.R., 125 Sqn.

As pilot and observer respectively these officers have completed a highly successful operational tour during which their keenness, reliability and efficiency have set a very fine example. They have destroyed 3 enemy aircraft, all of which they shot down in one sortie at night.

Flying Officer Leslie William HARDING (143293), R.A.F.V.R., 166 Sqn.

One night in August, 1944, Flying Officer Harding, as air bomber, was detailed to attack Stettin. The target was successfully bombed and course was set for base. When crossing the enemy coast the aircraft was attacked and severely damaged by an enemy fighter. The rear turret was shattered and a fire started in the fuselage. Dense smoke and fumes filled the fuselage but Flying Officer Harding successfully attacked the flames with an extinguisher. For the remainder of the return journey he tended the rear gunner who had received serious injuries, and also rendered great assistance to his captain. The coolness, initiative and courage of this officer is worthy of high praise.

Flying Officer Albert Edward MALONEY (147223), R.A.F.V.R., 620 Sqn.

This officer, as captain of aircraft, has bombed many targets in Germany, often in the face of heavy opposition. His skill and coolness have been exceptional and his example has proved a rare source of inspiration to all with whom he has flown. During the airborne operations in connection with the invasion of Northern France, Flying Officer Maloney flew with much distinction.

Flying Officer Arthur MENAUL (Can/J.13695), R.C.A.F., 404 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Flying Officer John TOMES (Can/J.25199), R.C.A.F., 404 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

As pilot and navigator respectively, these officers have completed a very large number of sorties and have displayed great skill, courage and co-operation. In September, 1944, they participated in an attack on an enemy shipping convoy off Kristiansand. During the attack the starboard propeller and the pilot's windscreen were damaged by anti-aircraft fire. Despite this the attack was pressed home. In the action, Flying Officer Menaul had been hit, a fact unrealised until the turn for home was made. Flying Officer Tomes promptly rendered efficient first aid and afterwards gave valuable assistance to his pilot in his endeavours to reach base. After bringing his aircraft down safely, Flying Officer Menaul collapsed. He had displayed great courage and fortitude. Flying Officer Tomes also proved himself a valiant member of aircraft crew, setting a fine example of coolness and determination.

Flying Officer Norman Ernest STREIGHT (Can/J.27638), R.C.A.F., 425 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed many successful sorties and has invariably displayed a high standard of skill and determination, qualities which were well illustrated one night in July, 1944, when detailed to attack a target. Soon after the take-off, one engine became defective. The propeller was feathered and Flying Officer Streight continued to the target which he reached at the estimated time, and executed his attack. He afterwards flew the aircraft safely to base. His ability and determination to press home his attacks have been most commendable.

Flying Officer John Nicholson THOMPSON (54311), R.A.F., 415 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Now on his second tour of operational duty, this officer has taken part in many sorties as air gunner. He has attacked a wide variety of targets and has at all times displayed exceptional