

Officer McDonnell gave excellent directions to his pilot who finally evaded the attacker. This officer's cool and skilful work did much to ensure the success of the sortie.

Flying Officer William David TOPPING (138322), R.A.F.V.R., 75 (N.Z.) Sqn.

Flying Officer Topping has completed many operational sorties against a variety of targets and proved himself a keen and competent navigator. In September, 1944, he participated in an attack on Kamen. Shortly after leaving the target area the aircraft was hit by fire from the ground defences. Flying Officer Topping was severely wounded in the arm. Although suffering great pain he navigated his aircraft back to base with unerring skill. He has at all times displayed a fine fighting spirit and great devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Desmond Trevor TULL (169425), (R.A.F.V.R.), 219 Sqn.

This officer is a highly skilled and resolute pilot. He has completed a large number of sorties, many of them in bad weather and has destroyed 4 enemy aircraft at night. His example of devotion to duty has been worthy of much praise.

Flying Officer Reginald Luke Bligh WALL (145918), R.A.F.V.R., 219 Sqn.

As observer, this officer has completed a very large number of sorties and has displayed courage and resolution of a high standard. He has assisted in the destruction of 6 enemy aircraft, an achievement which is an excellent testimony to his great skill and co-operation.

Flying Officer John Frederick WELSH (Can/J.26054), R.C.A.F., 254 Sqn.

Flying Officer Welsh is a highly skilled and courageous pilot who possesses qualities of a fine leader. In September, 1944, he participated in an attack on the harbour at Den Helder. In spite of fierce anti-aircraft fire Flying Officer Welsh pressed home his attack to close range and obtained hits on his target. This officer has completed very many sorties.

Pilot Officer Leon Albert Joseph GAUDRY (Can/J.87389), R.C.A.F., 425 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Pilot Officer Gaudry has consistently shown great courage and devotion to duty in air operations. He is a fearless and skilful captain and his example has been reflected in the efficiency of his crew. He has shown the greatest determination to complete his assignments successfully.

Pilot Officer Warren Kenneth HAMMOND (Can/J.88664), R.C.A.F., 427 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This air gunner has completed many sorties against heavily defended targets. On several occasions when his aircraft has been attacked by enemy night fighters, Pilot Officer Hammond directed the necessary evading tactics with great skill. Pilot Officer Hammond has shown courage and coolness in action and has shot down a Messerschmitt 210.

Pilot Officer Peter Ernest REGIMBAL (Can/J.87673), R.C.A.F., 427 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has proved himself to be a resolute air gunner whose skill and coolness have contributed materially to the success of many of the sorties in which he has taken part. His sterling qualities were well in evidence on one occasion in a sortie against Stuttgart. Whilst over the target the aircraft sustained severe damage. As the French coast was neared it became apparent that the petrol supply was fast becoming exhausted. The pilot thereupon altered his course to bring him over the beach-head. On reaching the area it was necessary for the crew to leave the aircraft by parachute. At this stage two enemy fighters approached. His comrades had commenced to leave the aircraft but Pilot Officer Regimbal remained at his guns ready to give covering fire if necessary. He only left his turret when finally requested by his captain. Since the incident, this officer has completed numerous sorties.

#### *Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant Edward Alexander CAMPBELL (Can/J.25414), R.C.A.F., 514 Sqn.

#### *Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1821127 Sergeant William Alexander DONALDSON, R.A.F.V.R., 514 Sqn.

In air operations this officer and airman have displayed skill, courage and fortitude of the highest order.

#### *Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1481202 Flight Sergeant William Royston HOYLE, R.A.F.V.R., 206 Sqn.

As navigator, Flight Sergeant Hoyle has completed very many sorties and has invariably displayed a high degree of devotion to duty. In spite of a most trying experience in which he was injured this airman's keenness remained unabated. After his recovery he soon resumed operational flying. Some months ago he was mid-upper gunner of an aircraft which engaged a U-boat. In the run-in much anti-aircraft fire was faced but Flight Sergeant Hoyle delivered most effective bursts of fire and completely silenced the submarine's guns. He set a fine example of skill and determination.

Can/R.164464 Flight Sergeant Henry Karl KAUFMAN, R.C.A.F., 434 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

As wireless operator (air) this airman has taken part in several sorties. One night in August, 1944, he participated in an attack on Kiel. While over the target the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire, and sustained severe damage. Nevertheless the target was successfully attacked. While over the North Sea on the return flight the pilot was compelled to bring the seriously damaged aircraft down on to the sea. Flight Sergeant Kaufman remained at his post until the last moment and sent out distress signals, which resulted in the entire crew being quickly located and rescued. His coolness and efficiency in the face of a trying situation were most commendable.

Can/R.124369 Flight Sergeant Frank Marcel KERBRAT, R.C.A.F., 90 Sqn.

As air bomber, Flight Sergeant Kerbrat has displayed a high standard of skill throughout his tour of operational duty. He is a most determined and resourceful member of aircraft crew and has set a fine example to all. On one occasion, whilst over enemy waters during a mine-laying mission, his pilot temporarily became incapacitated. Displaying great promptness, Flight Sergeant Kerbrat took over the controls and afterwards flew the aircraft back to this country. When an airfield was reached his pilot, though still suffering, landed the aircraft safely.

Can/R.205706 Flight Sergeant Edward Lorne VINCE, R.C.A.F., 419 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

As rear-gunner Flight Sergeant Vince has participated in very many sorties. He has displayed great skill and coolness and, when necessary, has defended his aircraft with resolution. On one occasion during an operation against Sterkrade his aircraft was intercepted by a fighter. In the ensuing engagement Flight Sergeant Vince used his guns to good effect. Although his own aircraft sustained damage he shot down the attacker. Some time later, on the flight home, several more attacks from enemy fighters were experienced, but this rear gunner's vigilance and skilful combat manoeuvres enabled his captain to evade the enemy aircraft. Flight Sergeant Vince has displayed outstanding devotion to duty.

992149 Sergeant John Alexander INNES, R.A.F.V.R., 408 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

As flight engineer, this airman has participated in many sorties. He has displayed commendable skill and courage and has proved himself to be a worthy member of aircraft crew. On his last sortie, Sergeant Innes was wounded whilst over Hamburg. Although in much pain he remained at his post until the mission was completed. Not until leaving the aircraft after it had been landed in England did he mention his injuries. He set a fine example of fortitude and devotion to duty.

1608905 Sergeant William James STONEMAN, R.A.F.V.R., 138 Sqn.

As air gunner this airman has participated in many operational missions and has displayed commendable skill and zeal. On one occasion the aircraft in which he was a member of the crew sustained such damage that the pilot was forced to bring it down on to the sea. As the aircraft touched down an inrush of water through the escape hatch, in the rear of the fuselage, flooded the compartment, whilst the interior of the aircraft became filled with petrol fumes. Several members of the crew were partially overcome and in danger of asphyxiation. The dinghy had failed to release. Sergeant Stoneman quickly appreciated the danger and climbed forward to a position from which he released the dinghy