

In October, 1944, he piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Wanne Eickel. Whilst over enemy territory the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. One of the petrol tanks was pierced by fragments of shrapnel. Most of the contents were lost. In spite of this, Flight Lieutenant Slocombe went on to the target and executed his attack. By skillfully using his engines on the return flight, thus conserving a quantity of petrol, Flight Lieutenant Slocombe succeeded in flying the aircraft to base. This officer has displayed a high degree of skill, courage and resource.

Flight Lieutenant Larry Robertson VAN KLEECK (Can/J.9367), R.C.A.F., 427 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has displayed high qualities of courage and leadership. He has participated in a large number of sorties, many of them against strongly defended targets. In September, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack a target in the Calais area. In the early stages of the outward flight one engine became unserviceable. This did not deter Flight Lieutenant Kleeck from continuing to the target which he successfully bombed. This officer has invariably pressed home his attacks with outstanding determination.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Jean GALLIPEAU (Can/J.36436), R.C.A.F., 425 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

In October, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack an enemy submarine base. In spite of heavy anti-aircraft fire a successful bombing run was executed. Shortly after leaving the target the starboard outer engine became unserviceable and the propeller had to be feathered. A few minutes later the starboard inner engine failed. The aircraft lost height. It seemed as though Flight Lieutenant Gallipeau would be forced to bring his aircraft down on to the sea but, at the third attempt to re-start one of the defective engines he succeeded in so doing. He afterwards flew to an airfield and effected a safe landing. This officer displayed outstanding airmanship, great coolness and determination in difficult circumstances.

Flying Officer Frederick Harry BURDETT (I36209), R.A.F.V.R., 90 Sqn.

Flying Officer Joseph Frank Xavier VERRONEAU (Can/J.25147), R.C.A.F., 90 Sqn.

These officers were flight engineer and pilot respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Bonn in October, 1944. Whilst on the bombing run the aircraft was subjected to heavy anti-aircraft fire. The bomber was hit. The aileron control was severed and the rudder control became firmly jammed in a main member in the fuselage. The aircraft commenced to lose height but the bombs were successfully released. Almost immediately the aircraft was again hit. This time the oxygen system was rendered unserviceable and considerable discomfort was experienced. Nevertheless, Flying Officer Verroneau retained a measure of control and headed for home. It was difficult, in the circumstances, to keep to an accurate course and the aircraft was again hit when passing over a heavily defended area. The mid-upper turret was put out of action. Meanwhile, Flying Officer Burdett, although suffering from the lack of oxygen, worked unremittingly in an effort to free the rudder control rod. Although he toiled for more than an hour-and-a-half his efforts were in vain but afterwards he rendered valuable assistance to his pilot by the use of the aileron trim and throttles. Eventually, Flying Officer Verroneau reached an airfield where he effected a safe landing in the face of great difficulty. This officer displayed the highest standard of skill, coolness and resolution, setting a splendid example. Flying Officer Burdett also proved himself to be a cool, confident and devoted crew member. His conduct was exemplary.

Flying Officer William Edward DENNETT (Can/J.25933), R.C.A.F., 425 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed a tour of operational duty during which he has attacked very many enemy targets. He has displayed high qualities of skill and courage and throughout his determination to complete his missions successfully has won great praise. He is a fine captain, whose example has greatly inspired his crew.

Flying Officer Leon Alexander HOWARD (I59694), R.A.F.V.R.

This officer has participated in a large number of operational missions and has displayed the

highest standard of efficiency and devotion to duty. As navigator/camera man he took part in a recent attack on an important enemy target. In spite of considerable fire from the ground defences, 3 runs were made over the target and Flying Officer Howard obtained a good pictorial record of a most successful attack. This officer has rendered much valuable service.

Flying Officer Craig Alexander MCKENZIE (Can/J.26463), R.C.A.F., 420 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

In September, 1944, this officer was pilot and captain of an aircraft detailed to attack a target in the Ruhr. On the outward flight one engine became unserviceable. Despite this Flying Officer McKenzie continued his mission. A little later the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. The mid-upper gunner was severely wounded in the leg. After the target had been successfully attacked, Flying Officer McKenzie requested his navigator to plot a course for an airfield in friendly territory. His purpose was to effect a landing in order that his badly wounded gunner could receive urgent medical attention. Having successfully accomplished this task, Flying Officer McKenzie again took off and flew his damaged aircraft to England. This officer set a fine example of skill, gallantry and determination.

Flying Officer Douglas Alfred OXBYP, D.F.M. (I38413), R.A.F.V.R., 219 Sqn.

This officer is a highly efficient, keen and resolute observer. He has participated in a large number of sorties and has assisted in the destruction of 17 enemy aircraft at night, 3 of them in one sortie. His devotion to duty has been unflinching.

Flying Officer Reginald James Arnold PARK (I51627), R.A.F.V.R., 489 (N.Z.) Sqn.

This officer has participated in numerous attacks on enemy shipping. He is a navigator of high merit, whose ability and determination have made him a most valuable member of aircraft crew. In September, 1944, Flying Officer Park was the navigator of the leading aircraft of a large formation which attacked a concentration of shipping in the harbour at Den Helder. His skill and accuracy played a good part in the success achieved. By his unflinching keenness, courage and devotion to duty this officer has set an example worthy of the highest praise.

Flying Officer Gordon Edward PLYLEY (Can/J.26145), R.C.A.F., 427 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer is a most efficient captain and pilot. He has participated in a large number of bombing missions against very many well-defended enemy targets and has pressed home his attacks with great determination. On one occasion whilst over Hamburg, he cleverly evaded a fighter which attempted a head-on attack. A little later, a second fighter closed in. Once again Flying Officer Plyley manoeuvred with great skill and his gunners shot down the attacker. This officer displayed coolness and determination characteristic of that which he has shown throughout his tour.

Flying Officer Clive Gordon THOMPSON (Aus.402453), R.A.A.F., 455 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has displayed great skill both as navigator and pilot. In the latter capacity, Flying Officer Thompson has participated in a number of attacks on enemy shipping. In September, 1944, he piloted an aircraft in an attack on shipping at Den Helder. In the face of intense anti-aircraft fire, Flying Officer Thompson attacked 3 vessels. He displayed a high degree of skill, courage and resolution throughout.

Acting Flying Officer Thomas Arthur SHORE (Can/J.85611), R.C.A.F., 431 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

As captain and pilot, this officer has completed a large number of sorties, involving attacks on a wide range of enemy targets. In October, 1944, he participated in an attack on Dortmund. Whilst over the target area the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and sustained much damage. In spite of this, Flying Officer Shore pressed home his attack. Three petrol tanks had been pierced by pieces of shrapnel. Some fuel was lost through leakage but Flying Officer Shore flew the damaged bomber to this country and effected a landing at an airfield near the coast. This officer has invariably displayed a high degree of skill, courage and determination.