

Pilot Officer John Malcolm COCHRANE (Can/J.88460), R.C.A.F., 433 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

One night in October, 1944, this officer was the mid-upper gunner of an aircraft detailed for a mine-laying mission. When leaving the target area the aircraft was struck by a burst of machine gun fire from an enemy fighter. Much damage was sustained and the rear gunner was killed. All the aileron controls were severed and, as the fighter closed in for a second attack, evading action could not be taken. Despite this, Pilot Officer Cochrane coolly withheld his fire until the attacker came to close range. Then, with a well placed burst of fire he shot the enemy aircraft down. His coolness, courage and good shooting set a very fine example. This officer has participated in many sorties.

Pilot Officer Albert Frederick ILLINGWORTH (178846), R.A.F.V.R., 434 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

As flight engineer, this officer has taken part in very many sorties and has displayed commendable skill and devotion to duty throughout. On one occasion, whilst over an enemy target, the aircraft sustained much damage when hit by anti-aircraft fire. Pilot Officer Illingworth was wounded in the thigh. In spite of much physical discomfort, he continued his engineering duties until the aircraft reached base. Since recovering from his injury, Pilot Officer Illingworth has taken part in a number of sorties, including attacks on such targets as Hamburg, Kiel and Dortmund. His keenness and devotion to duty have set a fine example.

Pilot Officer Thomas John MAXWELL (183101), R.A.F.V.R., 622 Sqn.

In air operations this officer has displayed skill, courage and fortitude in keeping with the best traditions of the Royal Air Force.

Pilot Officer Charles Joseph Lewis SMITH (Aus. 401724), R.A.A.F., 455 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has taken part in very many sorties, including numerous attacks on enemy shipping. In August, 1944, he took part in an attack on a well defended enemy convoy. In the fight, Pilot Officer Smith obtained a hit on a medium sized vessel, which caught fire. In September, 1944, he took part in an attack on shipping at Den Helder. In the face of considerable anti-aircraft fire, Pilot Officer Smith attacked shore batteries and afterwards pressed home an attack on a minesweeper. Although his aircraft sustained damage, making it difficult to control, he flew it safely to base. This officer has set a fine example of courage and tenacity.

Pilot Officer Henry Oliver STEVENSON (Can/J.87158), R.C.A.F., 434 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

As air gunner, this officer has taken part in very many sorties. He is a most efficient and vigilant

member of aircraft crew, whose example has been worthy of great praise. On one occasion whilst over an enemy target, the aircraft was subjected to 4 attacks by fighters. Pilot Officer Stevenson, who displayed great coolness and resolution throughout, shot down one of the attackers, whilst his skilful evading directions enabled his pilot to manoeuvre to good effect and prevent the remaining fighters from closing in. Pilot Officer Stevenson's efficiency contributed in good measure to the safe return of the aircraft.

Warrant Officer Donald McKenzie TUNNICLIFFE (N.Z.421152), R.N.Z.A.F., 489 (N.Z.) Sqn.

Warrant Officer Tunnicliffe has displayed a high standard of skill, determination and devotion to duty in operations against the enemy. He has participated in numerous successful attacks on enemy shipping, including the operation against a concentration of ships in the harbour at Den Helder in September, 1944. On this occasion, Warrant Officer Tunnicliffe was severely wounded when a shell burst in the cockpit. Although greatly distressed and suffering severely, this brave pilot flew the aircraft to base and landed it safely. He had to be removed from the controls in a state of collapse. This officer displayed courage and fortitude of a high order.

*Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (Flying).*

535682 Sergeant Ernest William KNIGHT, R.A.F., 432 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

One morning in October, 1944, this airman was the flight engineer of an aircraft detailed to attack Wanne Eickel. Whilst over the target the aircraft was badly hit by anti-aircraft fire. The bomb aimer was killed and Sergeant Knight was wounded. His injury was severe. Although suffering acutely he insisted on remaining at his post ready to give of his best to assist his captain in his attempt to fly the badly damaged aircraft home. One engine was completely out of action, whilst a second was kept functioning only by Sergeant Knight's constant attention. This airman displayed courage, fortitude and devotion to duty of a high order. His example was most inspiring.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

Can/R.214012 Flight Sergeant Harold Ceal ANNABLE, R.C.A.F., 419 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

As mid-upper gunner this officer has participated in a large number of sorties, including attacks on such targets as Dortmund, Brunswick, Bolmen and Kiel. He has at all times displayed the greatest determination and devotion to duty. On many occasions his aircraft has been attacked by enemy fighters. His timely combat manoeuvres and good shooting on these occasions have played a good part in the safe return of the aircraft.

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