

Flight Lieutenant Grange Lionel CONNER (89632), R.A.F.V.R., 58 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Conner has taken part in several attacks on enemy shipping, including a fight with a U-boat. In November, 1944, he was navigator/bomb-aimer in an aircraft which attacked a small convoy of two merchant vessels and two armed ships. In spite of heavy anti-aircraft fire, Flight Lieutenant Conner aimed his bombs with great accuracy and hit one of the vessels which caught fire. This officer has invariably displayed notable courage and coolness.

Flight Lieutenant David Charles FAIRBANKS (Can/J.9096), R.C.A.F., 274 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Fairbanks has completed a large number of sorties and has set a fine example of determination and devotion to duty throughout. On one occasion in November, 1944, whilst attacking an enemy locomotive, his aircraft was badly hit and turned completely over whilst at a low altitude. One of the petrol tanks was pierced and a fire commenced in one of the wings. Displaying admirable coolness and great skill, Flight Lieutenant Fairbanks succeeded in righting the aircraft and set course for home. The fire in the wing died down but not before it had done much damage. Nevertheless, Flight Lieutenant Fairbanks succeeded in reaching base. This officer has invariably displayed a high degree of courage.

Flight Lieutenant Campbell Edward LYE (N.Z.415333), R.N.Z.A.F., 214 Sqn.

This officer is a highly efficient and resolute pilot and captain. He has completed a large number of sorties and throughout has set a fine example of devotion to duty. One night in November, 1944, he piloted an aircraft in an attack on Freiburg. Before reaching the target the port inner engine failed. Some height was lost but Flight Lieutenant Lye continued to the target and afterwards flew the aircraft back to this country to complete his mission successfully. His determination was typical of that which he has shown throughout his tour.

Flight Lieutenant William Garth POWELL (106361), R.A.F.V.R., 502 Sqn.

This officer has displayed a high standard of ability and determination in his attacks on enemy shipping. One night in November, 1944, Flight Lieutenant Powell piloted one of two aircraft which successfully attacked a medium sized merchant vessel in enemy waters. In the engagement this pilot displayed a high degree of skill which played a good part in the result obtained. Flight Lieutenant Powell has completed much operational flying and has set a fine example throughout.

Flight Lieutenant Dennis Hewitt PRUDEN (101558), R.A.F.V.R., 502 Sqn.

This officer has completed numerous sorties on his second tour of operational duty. He has, within recent months, taken part in several attacks on shipping. In November, 1944, Flight Lieutenant Pruden pressed home a most determined attack on one of a force of four enemy ships in enemy waters. In November, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft in an attack on one of two medium sized merchantmen, escorted by two armed vessels. In spite of considerable anti-aircraft fire, Flight Lieutenant Pruden made a good run in to straddle one of the merchant vessels with his bombs. This officer has set a fine example of courage and devotion to duty.

Flight Lieutenant James Spence SHIACH (Can/J.14126), R.C.A.F., 58 Sqn.

This officer has completed very many sorties and throughout has set a fine example of keenness and skill. In October, 1944, as pilot of aircraft, he executed a most determined attack on 2 merchantmen. In spite of accurate and concentrated anti-aircraft fire from two escorting vessels, Flight Lieutenant Shiach pressed home his attack and obtained hits on one of the merchantmen and one of the escorting vessels, which caught fire. This officer displayed courage and resolution worthy of high praise.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Francis John RUSH (Can/J.23331), R.C.A.F., 502 Sqn.

Pilot Officer James Patrick LUCY (Aus.414868), R.A.A.F., 502 Sqn.

As pilot and navigator-bomb aimer respectively these officers have participated in very many operational missions. Within recent months they have completed several attacks on enemy shipping and the good results obtained are an excellent testi-

mony to their skill and co-operation. One night in November, 1944, they successfully attacked one of four enemy vessels. Some nights later they attacked another medium sized merchantman and obtained hits which caused much smoke to pour from various parts of the vessel. Flight Lieutenant Rush and Pilot Officer Lucy have at all times displayed exceptional keenness and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer John William SMITH (51068), R.A.F., 515 Sqn.

As observer this officer has participated in very many sorties. Throughout he has displayed great keenness and devotion to duty, setting a very fine example. On a recent occasion, Flying Officer Smith was the observer in an aircraft detailed for a sortie far into enemy territory. During this well planned and brilliantly executed operation, 2 enemy aircraft were shot down and 3 more on the ground were most effectively attacked. By his skill and co-operation, Flying Officer Smith contributed materially to the success achieved.

Warrant Officer Sidney Douglas JAMES (938512), R.A.F.V.R., 209 Sqn.

Warrant Officer James has completed a very large number of sorties. Throughout he has displayed the highest standard of keenness and skill and has proved himself to be an invaluable crew member. His coolness and resource in emergency have set an excellent example.

Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (Flying).

1579116 Flight Sergeant Frederick TOMKINS, R.A.F.V.R., 180 Sqn.

In December, 1944, this airman was the wireless operator in an aircraft detailed to attack a target in the Stralen area. During the sortie the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and sustained damage. The navigator and the pilot were wounded, the latter severely. Some Vercy cartridges near the pilot were set alight. The cockpit became filled with smoke which obscured most of the flying instruments. A small fire started amidships. Flight Sergeant Tomkins saw that the navigator was dealing successfully with the fire so he promptly crawled over the bomb bay to assist the injured pilot who, by now, was in a state bordering on collapse. He rallied when succoured by Sergeant Tomkins who afterwards took over the controls and flew the aircraft to an airfield in friendly territory. Here, under the instructions of his wounded pilot, he brought the aircraft down safely. In the face of most trying circumstances, Sergeant Tomkins displayed courage, coolness and resource of a high order.

Avy Ministry, 23rd January, 1945.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commanders.

John Lawrence Hillel BERLANDINA, D.F.C. (46778), R.A.F., 114 Sqn.

Arthur Keith PASSMORE, D.F.C. (40939), R.A.F.O., 18 Sqn.

William PITT-BROWN, D.F.C. (33348), R.A.F.

Squadron Leader.

Peter William de Bordenave FORSYTH, D.F.C. (41008), R.A.F.O., 37 Sqn.

Acting Squadron Leader.

Michael Roscoe INGLE FINCH, D.F.C., A.F.C. (84328), R.A.F.V.R., 175 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant.

George Andrew MARTIN, D.F.C. (128646), R.A.F.V.R., 73 Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leaders.

Robert Norman BROCKMAN (103546), R.A.F.V.R., 117 Sqn.

Ian Ronald KROHN (41714), R.A.F.O., 221 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenants.

Colin CRYSTALL (46538), R.A.F., 243 Sqn.

Anthony Charles William FAIRHEAD (127888), R.A.F.V.R., 184 Sqn.