

the shattered windscreen caused great physical distress to the pilot. His hands became frozen and it was with the greatest difficulty that he was able to use them. Nevertheless, he held doggedly to his task. He came down considerably in altitude and afterwards flew the aircraft to base. In most painful and distressing conditions this officer displayed exceptional fortitude and determination.

Flight Lieutenant George Thomas PYKE (124834), R.A.F.V.R., 550 Sqn.

This officer has displayed outstanding devotion to duty. He has completed very many sorties and has invariably pressed home his attacks with a determination which has won much praise. One night in December, 1944, he piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Ludwigshafen. Soon after leaving this country, one engine failed. This did not deter Flight Lieutenant Pyke from continuing to his far distant target which he eventually attacked successfully. He afterwards flew the aircraft to base and effected a safe landing. This officer displayed great skill and tenacity.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Henry AMBROSE (156922), R.A.F.V.R., 175 Sqn.

During his second tour of operational duty this officer has participated in a large number of sorties including many low level attacks on various enemy targets. During the fighting in the Falaise area and other parts of Normandy Flight Lieutenant Ambrose was responsible for the destruction of many tanks and mechanical transport. He has flown with great skill and dash and his excellent work has contributed materially to the success achieved. He has at all times displayed the greatest keenness.

Flying Officer Gordon Wood SMITH (176513), R.A.F.V.R., 514 Sqn.

Flying Officer Smith, as pilot and captain of aircraft, has completed many sorties against heavily defended German targets. One night in August, 1944, Flying Officer Smith was detailed to attack Stettin. During the attack his aircraft was badly hit and one engine was rendered unserviceable. On the return journey a second engine failed. In spite of this serious loss of power, Flying Officer Smith flew the aircraft to base and made a successful landing. A few days later, following a successful attack on Kiel, Flying Officer Smith again flew his aircraft to base with one engine out of action. Throughout his tour of operational duty this officer has displayed exceptional keenness and determination.

Acting Flying Officer John Harold Collyer BRAHAM (A.417043), R.A.A.F., 57 Sqn.

This officer is a most devoted and determined member of aircraft crew. He has participated in numerous sorties and has invariably pressed home his attacks with commendable resolution. In December, 1944, Flying Officer Braham piloted an aircraft in an attack on a target in Germany. Early on the outward flight one engine became unserviceable. Some airspeed was lost but Flying Officer Braham went on to execute a bombing attack in spite of considerable opposing fire. This officer has at all times displayed a high standard of devotion to duty.

Acting Flying Officer Donald Percy LEADLEY (N.Z.427062), R.N.Z.A.F., 75 (N.Z.) Sqn.

In November, 1944, this officer was pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack Cologne. Early on the outward flight the propeller of the starboard outer engine had to be feathered. Although some height was lost, Flying Officer Leadley went on to the target and executed his attack. During the operation the aircraft was hit by shrapnel. Some time later, en route for home, the port inner engine commenced to emit smoke, whilst oil poured from it. Soon afterwards, yet a third engine became defective. In spite of this, Flying Officer Leadley flew to the nearest available airfield in this country and effected a safe landing. This officer has completed numerous sorties and has invariably displayed a high degree of skill, coolness and courage.

Acting Flying Officer Thomas Charles MARKS (183874), R.A.F.V.R., 514 Sqn.

This officer has completed very many sorties on his second tour of operational duty. He has participated in attacks on many dangerous and difficult targets and throughout has displayed unbeatable determination and devotion to duty. In November, 1944, he piloted an aircraft in an attack on Homberg. During the bombing run the

aircraft sustained severe damage. Control was temporarily lost. Flying Officer Marks quickly regained control and afterwards executed a precise and determined attack. His resolution was typical of that which he has shown throughout.

Acting Flying Officer John Backhouse TOPHAM (178865), R.A.F.V.R., 514 Sqn.

In air operations this officer has displayed courage, fortitude and devotion to duty of a high order.

Acting Flying Officer James TUDBERRY (A.423357), R.A.A.F., 10 Sqn.

This officer was pilot and captain of an aircraft detailed to attack Essen one night in November, 1944. Whilst a considerable distance from the target the port outer engine failed. Despite this, Flying Officer Tudberry continued his mission. Some height had been lost as the target was reached but a successful bombing run was executed. On the return flight height was gradually lost, whilst at one point, after leaving enemy territory, the defective engine caught fire. The flames were put out by means of an extinguisher. Afterwards the aircraft began to vibrate very badly and Flying Officer Tudberry was unable to read the flying instruments. The vibration increased to such an extent that this captain decided to attempt a landing. Displaying exceptional skill he brought the aircraft down safely in a field with the undercarriage retracted. In difficult circumstances this officer set a fine example of coolness and determination and was undoubtedly responsible for saving the aircraft and its crew.

Pilot Officer Norman Garlanda SIEVWRIGHT (183102), R.A.F.V.R., 182 Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties, including many armed reconnaissances and harassing attacks on such enemy targets as railways, radio stations and mechanical transport. In November, 1944, he took part in an air attack on an enemy strong point at Stadtlohn. When nearing the target considerable anti-aircraft fire was encountered. In spite of this, Pilot Officer Sievwright led his formation in to the target with great skill and dash and a determined and successful attack was executed. In this spirited sortie, Pilot Officer Sievwright displayed high qualities of courage and determination.

#### *Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flying Officer Peter Norman ALDRED (A.415600), R.A.A.F., 460 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

#### *Distinguished Flying Medal.*

A.427369 Flight Sergeant Rodney John ALLCOTT, R.A.A.F., 460 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer and airman have displayed a high standard of skill, courage, and fortitude in air operations.

#### *Air Ministry, 6th February, 1945.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards:—

#### *Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

##### *Wing Commander.*

Anthony GADD, D.F.C. (37557), R.A.F.O., 144 Sqn.

#### *Distinguished Flying Cross.*

##### *Acting Wing Commanders.*

William Appleby BROWN (90309), A.A.F., 38 Sqn.  
Arthur Henry SIMMONDS (39396), R.A.F.O. 254 Sqn.

##### *Squadron Leader.*

Robert Benvie FLEMING, A.F.C. (41572), R.A.F.O., 547 Sqn.

##### *Acting Squadron Leaders.*

John Chegwyn Thomas DOWNEY (42208), R.A.F.O., 224 Sqn.  
Frank Lee GODBER (89821), R.A.F.V.R., 628 Sqn.

##### *Flight Lieutenants.*

Donald Owen ANDREW (117585), R.A.F.V.R., 220 Sqn.  
Peter Raymond BASSETT (131015), R.A.F.V.R., 404 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.  
Robert Houston GILBERT (101508), R.A.F.V.R., 628 Sqn.  
Wilfred JOHNSON (111579), R.A.F.V.R., 172 Sqn.