

Acting Squadron Leader George Alfred PATRICK, D.F.C. (N.Z.411442), R.N.Z.A.F., 35 Sqn.

Squadron Leader Patrick has an impressive operational record, having participated in 118 sorties. On one occasion, in November, 1944, he was a member of the crew of an aircraft detailed to attack Dusseldorf. Soon after the take off, all the wireless navigational aids became unserviceable. Nevertheless, Squadron Leader Patrick navigated the aircraft to target which was successfully attacked. His faultless work on a sortie, the success of which depended on accurate timing, was worthy of the highest praise. His strong sense of discipline, great resolution and devotion to duty have set an example of a high order.

Acting Squadron Leader Hugh James SANDERSON, D.F.C. (67686), R.A.F.V.R., 139 Sqn.

This officer has displayed outstanding keenness for operational flying. He has completed a third tour of operational duty during which he has attacked a variety of targets in Germany. He has displayed a high degree of courage and resolution in pressing home his attacks, often in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire. On one occasion whilst over Berlin, a target he has attacked no less than ten times, his aircraft was illuminated in the searchlights. Despite this, Squadron Leader Sanderson maintained a steady run in to attack the target with accuracy. His determination was typical of that which he has shown on all occasions. This officer has proved of tremendous value to the Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Archibald MITCHELL, D.F.C. (116381), R.A.F.V.R., 571 Sqn.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross this officer has completed a large number of sorties, including 12 attacks on Berlin. He has displayed exceptional skill and great personal courage in pressing home his attacks, the accuracy of which has been well proved by the number of good photographs obtained. He has displayed the greatest keenness for air operations and has completed more than a hundred sorties.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Edward Ernest STOCKER, D.F.C. (50954), R.A.F., 582 Sqn.

This officer continues to display a high degree of skill and courage in air operations. He has participated in a hundred sorties, most of which have been against targets in Germany. His skilful and resolute work has been largely responsible for the many successes obtained. His example has been of a high order.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Squadron Leader Gerald John GRAY, D.F.C. (88209), R.A.F.V.R., 182 Sqn.

Squadron Leader Gray was detailed to lead a formation of aircraft in an attack on a large concentration of enemy transport and tanks near the German front line. In spite of intense fire from the enemy's ground defences, the operation was completed successfully. Throughout the flight, Squadron Leader Gray displayed a high degree of courage and resolution. His aircraft was hit in the first run in. Despite this he pressed home his attacks again and again and contributed materially to the good results obtained. Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross this officer has completed very many varied sorties.

Acting Squadron Leader Alfred William Gordon COCHRANE, D.S.O., D.F.C. (N.Z.403429), R.N.Z.A.F., 156 Sqn.

Squadron Leader Cochrane is a cool and courageous captain and pilot, whose fine qualities of leadership and determination have been well illustrated in many operations against the enemy. In December, 1944, Squadron Leader Cochrane participated in an attack on the airfield at Dusseldorf. In spite of intense and accurate fire from the ground defences, Squadron Leader Cochrane pressed home his attack with his usual skill. His aircraft was hit but he flew it back to base. His devotion to duty has been unflinching.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Kenneth Lloyd COLLINSON (87454), R.A.F.V.R., 166 Sqn.

In December, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack the railway sidings at Rheydt. On the outward flight, before reaching enemy territory, the starboard outer engine became defective. It soon became overheated and had to be put out of action. Nevertheless,

Squadron Leader Collinson continued to the target which he successfully attacked at a lower level than originally planned. During the operation the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire, causing damage to the mainplane and main structure. Despite this, Squadron Leader Collinson flew back to a home-based airfield. He executed a safe landing, although visibility was poor. This officer has completed numerous sorties and has invariably displayed commendable courage and resolution.

Acting Squadron Leader Roy Kenneth ORROCK (89090), R.A.F.V.R., 248 Sqn.

This officer has completed many sorties on his second tour of operational duty, during which he has participated in several attacks on enemy shipping; he has also completed a number of mine-laying missions successfully. He has displayed the greatest keenness to engage the enemy and his devotion to duty has been outstanding.

Flight Lieutenant Donald FITZGERALD (133482), R.A.F.V.R., 2 Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of tactical reconnaissances, many of them at low level over highly defended areas. On one occasion, whilst over Walcheren at low level, his aircraft was badly hit. Part of the starboard tailplane was shot away. The controls became jammed which allowed only limited elevator movement. Nevertheless, Flight Lieutenant Fitzgerald completed his task and afterwards flew the aircraft to base. In December, 1944, he executed a reconnaissance during which he attacked several small vessels. Before terminating his mission he sighted two small enemy submarines. As a result of his report these vessels were successfully attacked. This officer has displayed great skill and courage in the execution of his many missions.

Flight Lieutenant James Andrew Lorne FORD (Can/J.12688), R.C.A.F., 608 Sqn.

This officer has displayed the highest standard of determination and devotion to duty in his attacks on the enemy. In December, 1944, he flew with great distinction in an attack on Duisburg. Some hours later, Flight Lieutenant Ford was again in the air. He had volunteered to take the place of a sick pilot. This time the target was Hanover and Flight Lieutenant Ford executed his mission successfully. His fine fighting spirit and great keenness have set a fine example.

Flight Lieutenant Charles Henry LOCKYER (135483), R.A.F.V.R., 608 Sqn.

As pilot of aircraft this officer has participated in a large number of sorties, most of which have been against well defended targets in Germany. Throughout he has displayed outstanding keenness and great determination, qualities which were well in evidence on a recent occasion. Soon after returning to base, following a successful attack on Duisburg, he volunteered to take the place of a pilot who was indisposed. Some hours later he was en route to Hanover which he successfully attacked. He set a fine example of courage and determination.

Flight Lieutenant Jerome Joseph James STALBERGER (Can/J.13402), R.C.A.F., 424 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

One night in December, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Hagen. On the outward flight some of the navigational equipment became unserviceable but Flight Lieutenant Stalberger continued his mission. When approaching the target area the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. The port outer engine was put out of action. Some height was lost. Even so, Flight Lieutenant Stalberger went on to press home a successful attack. This officer has completed many sorties and has displayed notable skill and determination throughout.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Gerard LEWIS (150299), R.A.F.V.R., 156 Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties, many of them against targets in Germany. He has invariably displayed a high degree of skill and courage in pressing home his attacks, often in the face of strong opposition. On a recent occasion he captained an aircraft detailed to attack Dusseldorf. In spite of adverse weather and in the face of heavy fire from the enemy's ground defences, Flight Lieutenant Lewis executed a successful attack. His determination on this occasion was typical of that which he has shown throughout his tour.