

opposing fire. Flight Lieutenant Brearley and Flying Officer Sheldon displayed commendable courage and resolution.

Flying Officer Jack BOWSKILL (133109), R.A.F.V.R., 268 Sqn.

This officer is a keen and resolute pilot. He has completed many successful reconnaissances over the battle area, some of them in very adverse weather. When returning from one of these missions one day recently, he was re-directed to reconnoitre positions over the immediate battle area. In the face of continuous, intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire, Flying Officer Bowskill flew over the enemy's lines at a very low level and secured information of much value to our ground forces. This officer set a splendid example of keenness and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Preston Thomas HILL (150249), R.A.F.V.R., 186 Sqn.

In February, 1945, Flying Officer Hill was pilot and captain of an aircraft detailed to attack Gelsenkirchen. When approaching the target the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and Flying Officer Hill was wounded in the arm in two places. Blood flowed freely from his badly lacerated wounds but this gallant pilot continued a steady run-in and executed a good bombing attack. Not until he had flown well clear of enemy territory would Flying Officer Hill consent to receive attention. He afterwards flew the damaged aircraft to base and effected a safe landing. This officer set a fine example of courage and fortitude.

Acting Flying Officer Kenneth Edgar ROBERTS (Aus. 419973), R.A.A.F., 101 Sqn.

Flying Officer Roberts has completed many sorties against a variety of targets in Germany. On many occasions he has faced heavy enemy fire but has always pressed home his attacks with good results. Once, when detailed to attack Wiesbaden, an engine failed on the outward flight. This did not deter Flying Officer Roberts from continuing his mission and he eventually attacked his target with skill and vigour. He afterwards flew back to an airfield and effected a safe landing. This officer's operational record is worthy of much praise.

Pilot Officer Jeffrey BIRD (187516), R.A.F.V.R., 72 Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties during which he has attacked a variety of enemy targets with much skill and determination. On a recent occasion, Pilot Officer Bird took part in a sortie during which six barges and a number of mechanical vehicles were most effectively attacked. This officer has invariably displayed a high degree of courage in his attacks on the enemy and among his successes is the destruction of 3 enemy aircraft.

Warrant Officer Walter GILL (643099), R.A.F., 502 Sqn.

As wireless operator (air) Warrant Officer Gill has taken part in a very large number of sorties, including some attacks on enemy shipping. He has invariably displayed a high degree of skill and resolution and his example has been worthy of high praise. One night in February, 1945, Warrant Officer Gill was a member of the crew of an aircraft which successfully attacked a medium-sized enemy merchantman in convoy. His coolness and co-operation throughout this spirited sortie were typical of that which he has shown on all occasions when facing the enemy.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer Geoffrey Horwood SMITH (177653), R.A.F.V.R., 640 Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1594904 Sergeant Albert SLEEMAN, R.A.F.V.R., 640 Sqn.

This officer and airman were pilot and flight engineer respectively in an aircraft detailed to attack Reisholz one night in February, 1945. When nearing the target the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. Pieces of shrapnel smashed the bomb doors. The hydraulic gear was put out of action, causing the flaps to fall down, thus reducing the speed of the aircraft and making it difficult to control. The fuselage petrol tank was pierced and a large fire commenced. With complete disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Sleeman at once directed his efforts towards quelling the flames. The fire threatened to get out

of control but Sergeant Sleeman worked strenuously and at last succeeded in extinguishing the fire. He had sustained several burns which caused him much pain. This did not prevent him from immediately turning his attention towards temporarily repairing the fuel cocks of the starboard tanks which had been damaged. Meanwhile, Flying Officer Smith displayed great coolness during this harassing period, kept his aircraft headed towards the target which he eventually attacked. Afterwards, he flew the badly damaged aircraft back to the nearest available airfield in this country. This officer displayed superb skill, great determination and devotion to duty. Sergeant Sleeman also proved himself to be an outstanding crew member. His courage and resource set a fine example.

Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (Flying).

1486967 Flight Sergeant Rupert Percy LONGLEY, R.A.F.V.R., 218 Sqn.

This airman was the wireless operator in an aircraft detailed to attack Neuss one night in January, 1945. During the operation the aircraft sustained severe damage. In spite of this the pilot succeeded in reaching Allied territory where he was forced to give the order to abandon as the aircraft had now become uncontrollable. One member of the crew, whose parachute had opened by accident inside the fuselage, was therefore unwilling to jump. He asked to be allowed to strap himself to Flight Sergeant Longley's back. The latter, without the slightest hesitation, agreed. After the two airmen had been strapped together they made their way, in total darkness, to the jumping point. On the way the ripcord of Flight Sergeant Longley's parachute caught in a projection. Although the parachute opened he was able to catch and hold the case intact and, with his comrade on his back, jumped clear of the aircraft. Unfortunately, in the descent, his comrade fell away. Flight Sergeant Longley came down on a tall tree from which he fell to the ground and badly injured his back. His action in allowing a comrade to descend with him on a single parachute, although unavailing, showed a spirit of gallantry and self-sacrifice which will long be remembered.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1581502 Flight Sergeant Peter Harrington EATON, R.A.F.V.R., 450 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Flight Sergeant Eaton has participated in a large number of sorties, most of them against targets in the forward battle areas. He has led formations of aircraft on many occasions against enemy strong points and has set a fine example by pressing home his attacks in the face of accurate fire from the ground defences. His resolute work has contributed in good measure to the successes obtained.

Air Ministry, 13th April, 1945.

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

Bar to Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Group Captain.

Geoffrey Harland WOMERSLEY, D.S.O., D.F.C. (43696), R.A.F., 139 Sqn.

Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Wing Commanders.

Francis Stanislaus GONSALVES, D.F.C. (86378), R.A.F.V.R., 85 Sqn.

Alfred John OGILVIE, D.F.C., A.F.C. (42427), R.A.F., 90 Sqn.

John Mortimer VINEY, D.F.C. (42283), R.A.F. 640 Sqn.

Acting Squadron Leaders.

Frederick William Winslow CHANDLER, D.F.C. (116207), R.A.F.V.R., 156 Sqn.

Ronald George CHURCHER, D.F.C. (68172), R.A.F.V.R., 627 Sqn.

Ronald George WOODMAN, D.F.C. (69464), R.A.F.V.R., 169 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant.

Gordon Webster McCash NEILL (113334), R.A.F.V.R., 10 Sqn.