

Warrant Officer Sydney William HOLMES (Aus.422562), R.A.A.F., 454 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Since joining his squadron in November, 1944, Warrant Officer Holmes has completed numerous operational sorties against strongly-defended targets. One night in March, 1945, he was detailed for an armed reconnaissance. When near to Mestre, he encountered intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire. His aircraft was hit in the starboard engine and the bomb bay, resulting in the failure of the engine and the hydraulic gear. Displaying great determination and skill, this officer brought his crippled aircraft safely back to base where he executed a successful landing without the aid of ailerons or brakes. His example of courage and devotion to duty has impressed all.

Warrant Officer Douglas Haig MANN (N.Z.414316), R.N.Z.A.F., 489 (N.Z.) Sqn.

Since joining his squadron in May, 1944, Warrant Officer Mann has completed very many sorties, including numerous attacks on enemy shipping. He has at all times pressed home his attacks with great determination and has inflicted much damage on the enemy. The courage and determination shown by this airman have set a fine example to the squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant Geoffrey Cleugh CHAPMAN (120712), R.A.F.V.R., 85 Sqn.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1219665 Flight Sergeant James STOCKLEY, R.A.F.V.R., 85 Sqn.

As pilot and observer respectively, this officer and airman have participated in very many sorties. They have proved themselves to be highly skilled, cool and resolute members of aircraft crew and their keenness for operations has won much praise. One night in March, 1945, they were responsible for the destruction of two enemy aircraft.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant Reginald Arnold CLARKE (129222), R.A.F.V.R., 159 Sqn.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1336817 Flight Sergeant Bernard Frank BAILEY, R.A.F.V.R., 159 Sqn.

This officer and airman were pilot and bomb aimer respectively detailed for a mine-laying mission one night in March, 1945. Just before turning to leave the target with their task accomplished, the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. The navigator was grievously wounded. Flight Sergeant Bailey immediately went to the assistance of his stricken comrade. Although he rendered most efficient first aid his efforts proved unavailing. Meanwhile, Flight Lieutenant Clarke set course for home. His aircraft had sustained damage. The aileron controls were affected and the artificial horizon had been rendered unserviceable. Nevertheless, this resolute pilot flew a considerable distance, at one period in the face of most adverse conditions, to reach base safely. Flight Lieutenant Clarke displayed a high degree of skill and tenacity throughout. Flight Sergeant Bailey also proved himself to be an efficient and resolute crew member and rendered much valuable assistance to his pilot on the homeward flight. His conduct was exemplary throughout.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1396769 Flight Sergeant Arthur John CLARK, R.A.F.V.R., 101 Sqn.

1595658 Flight Sergeant Edgar Leslie PEARSON, R.A.F.V.R., 101 Sqn.

One night in March, 1945, these airmen were mid-upper and rear gunners respectively in an aircraft detailed to attack Chemnitz. Over the target area an enemy fighter was observed manoeuvring to an attack. Both gunners opened fire and the enemy aircraft dived towards the ground out of control with the engine, starboard wing and fuselage on fire. By their accurate shooting and presence of mind the enemy aircraft was forestalled. Flight Sergeants Clark and Pearson have participated in very many sorties against a wide variety of heavily defended targets in Germany. Their consistent skill, courage and devotion to duty are highly commendable.

Can/R.187858 Flight Sergeant Robert Fairful UPCOTT, R.C.A.F., 101 Sqn.

In March, 1945, this airman piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Cologne. Intense enemy fire was encountered over the target and the bomber was hit in both the starboard engines. In spite of this, Flight Sergeant Upcott pressed home his attack. On the return journey the two damaged engines became completely unserviceable and it was necessary to feather the propellers. Despite these difficulties, Flight Sergeant Upcott brought his aircraft and crew safely back to base. Some days later, this airman made a successful attack on Essen despite the failure of one of his engines on the outward journey. His fine qualities of leadership, resolution and devotion to duty have been most praiseworthy.

2225144 Sergeant John CORNER, R.A.F.V.R., 101 Sqn.

In March, 1945, this airman was detailed on his first operational sortie as flight engineer. The target was Cologne. When over the target both the starboard engines were hit by enemy fire. Sergeant Corner immediately feathered the propellers of both engines. The starboard petrol tank selector cock wires had been severed which made it necessary for him to manipulate them by hand. When nearing base on the return journey he unfeathered the propeller of the starboard inner engine to build up brake pressure, but the engine immediately caught fire. When the aircraft had been landed he jumped on to the wing and, by means of an extinguisher, he subdued the flames of the burning engine. On this, his first operational mission, Sergeant Corner displayed the coolness of a veteran and his resourceful work contributed to the success of the sortie.

*Air Ministry, 22nd May, 1945.*

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

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

*Acting Wing Commander*

Robert Alfred MILWARD, D.F.C. (37201), R.A.F., 619 Sqn.

*Acting Squadron Leaders.*

John Denis George BISHOP, D.F.C. (80540), R.A.F.V.R., 105 Sqn.

John Vickers COCKSHOTT, D.F.C. (137275), R.A.F.V.R., 617 Sqn.

Percy Desborough HALLAM, D.F.C. (104536), R.A.F.V.R., 582 Sqn.

Russell FROWDE, D.F.C. (100551), R.A.F.V.R., 170 Sqn.

Peter Rubert MELLOR, D.F.C. (122222), R.A.F.V.R., 635 Sqn.

Leslie Walter MILLETT, D.F.C. (85694), R.A.F.V.R., 105 Sqn.

Thomas Lindsey PARRY, D.F.C. (106234), R.A.F.V.R., 158 Sqn.

Frank RUSKELL, D.F.C. (111536), R.A.F.V.R., 109 Sqn.

*Flight Lieutenants.*

John Lindsay BIRCH, D.F.C. (144267), R.A.F.V.R., 156 Sqn.

Ronald Edgar GARDNER, D.F.C. (135460), R.A.F.V.R., 625 Sqn.

Gerard Stanfield JOHNSON, D.F.C. (50002), R.A.F., 97 Sqn. (since deceased).

Austin Gurin MILES, D.F.C. (124765), R.A.F.V.R., 608 Sqn.

John Douglas Bernard Valentine REFFITT, D.F.C. (47458), R.A.F., 105 Sqn.

David Burgess ROSS, D.F.C. (139642), R.A.F.V.R., 427 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

John Clement STEAD, D.F.C. (47716), R.A.F., 192 Sqn.

*Acting Flight Lieutenants*

Ronald Henry ANDERSON, D.F.C. (145342), R.A.F.V.R., 640 Sqn.

Ivor William BAGSHAW, D.F.C. (179394), R.A.F.V.R., 582 Sqn.

Victor Edward BOWDEN, D.F.C. (171868), R.A.F.V.R., 405 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Douglas Thomas BURKE, D.F.C. (170864), R.A.F.V.R., 105 Sqn.

John Edward DAVIDSON, D.F.C. (56092), R.A.F., 7 Sqn.