

Wood pressed home his attack with great accuracy, resulting in the complete destruction of the target from which the enemy retreated. The courage and determination shown by Flight Lieutenant Wood on this well-executed sortie was typical of that which he has displayed on all occasions.

Captain Frederik Evert POTGIETER (47848V), S.A.A.F., 3 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

In March, 1945, Captain Potgieter flew the leading aircraft of a small formation detailed to attack a Salso Maggiore oilfield. A good run over the target was made and all bombs fell in the area. A tank was burst open from which crude oil began to pour. Captain Potgieter thereupon dived to a low level and raked the area with machine gun fire. He set the escaping oil alight; he also hit another tank and set its contents on fire. The two fires soon merged causing a large conflagration which sent volumes of black smoke billowing to a great height. After leaving the target, some enemy vehicles on an important highway were effectively attacked. On this notable sortie Captain Potgieter displayed the highest qualities of skill and courage. This officer has participated in many bombing missions and his accurate and determined work have contributed materially to the successes obtained.

Captain Grahame Wyatt SCHWIKKARD (205771V), S.A.A.F., 112 Sqn.

This officer has taken part in a large number of varied sorties, including many harassing attacks on the enemy's railway system. On one occasion in January, 1945, he led a formation on a sortie during which several successes were obtained. First, two trains near Zagret were most effectively attacked and some 30 yards of the permanent way was destroyed. Afterwards, another train consisting of trucks containing mechanical vehicles and troops was subjected to a fierce attack. As a result the locomotive and some of the freightage were destroyed, whilst a good number of enemy troops were effectively machine-gunned as they tried to dash to cover. Before the reconnaissance ended 3 more locomotives and many trucks were successfully attacked. On this occasion, Captain Schwikkard amply demonstrated his great skill, gallantry and determination and contributed in good measure to the success achieved.

Captain Laurence Edward Arthur SHAW (328931V), S.A.A.F., 450 Sqn.

Captain Shaw has set a splendid example of devotion to duty in air operations. He has participated in a large number of sorties, most of them in close support of our ground forces. During these operations he has displayed a high degree of skill and courage and has invariably pressed home his attacks with great accuracy. Captain Shaw has led the squadron on very many occasions and his sound tactical ability, coupled with exceptional determination, has played a good part in the successes obtained.

Flying Officer Thomas Fullerton FORD (Can/J.49321), R.C.A.F., 420 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed numerous bombing missions against enemy targets. He quickly displayed the qualities of a highly skilled pilot and his determination to make every sortie a success has been worthy of high praise. On one occasion in March, 1945, en route to Dortmund, the linkage of the throttle of the starboard inner engine broke. The engine could not be used and the propeller had to be feathered. In spite of this, Flying Officer Ford continued to the target which he reached after the main bombing force had concluded its attack. Although much anti-aircraft fire was directed at his aircraft, Flying Officer Ford pressed home a good attack. He afterwards flew back to base and landed safely. This officer set a splendid example of devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Cornelius James SHEDDAN (N.Z.412358), R.N.Z.A.F., 486 (N.Z.) Sqn.

This officer has displayed the highest standard of devotion to duty. He has participated in a very large number of varied sorties during which much damage has been inflicted on such enemy targets as locomotives, barges, industrial buildings and mechanical transport. On one occasion, Flying Officer Sheddán was forced to bring his damaged aircraft down on to the sea. He was subsequently adrift in the dinghy for 19 hours before being rescued. On resuming flying operations, Flying Officer Sheddán quickly showed that this experience had in no way diminished his zest for battle

and he set a fine example of courage and resolution in pressing home his attack. Among his successes is the destruction of 3 enemy aircraft.

Lieutenant Raymond Howard VEITCH (543020V), S.A.A.F., 260 Sqn.

Lieutenant Veitch has participated in very many sorties and throughout has displayed a high degree of skill and keenness. On one occasion in April, 1945, he piloted an aircraft in an attack on enemy mechanical transport in an area in Northern Yugoslavia. During the operation his aircraft was badly hit. He attempted to fly back to base but when crossing the enemy coast, an engine caught fire. A little later, Lieutenant Veitch was forced to leave by parachute. He came down on to the sea. Later, a lifeboat was dropped to him. He got safely aboard and afterwards safely negotiated the mine-infested waters to be picked up later by the crew of a Catalina aircraft. Some days later, this officer resumed operational flying. Whilst attacking a target in the same area his aircraft sustained such severe damage that, when over the sea close to the enemy coast, Lieutenant Veitch had to abandon it. He came down in waters which were extensively mined. For seven hours he paddled his dinghy through these dangerous waters when a lifeboat was dropped to him. Thus, he reached the open sea where he was picked up. Throughout these trying ordeals, Lieutenant Veitch displayed the highest standard of courage and resolution, setting an example worthy of the greatest praise.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1574315 Sergeant George Young NISBET, R.A.F.V.R., 185 Sqn.

This airman has participated in very many sorties and has displayed coolness, courage and determination throughout. In March, 1945, he took part in an attack on a strongly defended oil field at Salso Maggiore. Immediately after releasing his bombs, the aircraft was hit and damaged by enemy fire. Nevertheless, Sergeant Nisbet came down to a low level to press home a further attack with his machine guns. Whilst so doing his aircraft was hit in the engine. Thick black smoke poured from the damaged engine which caught fire. Oil entered the cockpit, saturated Sergeant Nisbet's clothing which was badly scorched when some of the oil caught alight. Displaying the greatest coolness in these harassing moments, Sergeant Nisbet climbed in order to gain the height necessary to abandon the aircraft with a measure of safety. As he did so, the flames in the burning engine died down. But it still emitted smoke and oil. Although his vision was thus partly obscured, Sergeant Nisbet flew on to an airfield in allied territory where he effected a safe landing. This airman displayed skill, tenacity and devotion to duty of a high order.

Air Ministry, 12th June, 1945.

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

Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Wing Commander.

Cameron Frederick MERVYN-JONES, D.F.C. (81916), R.A.F.V.R., 104 Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commanders.

William Edward Michael LOWRY (33193), R.A.F., 684 Sqn.

Alan Edward NEWITT (40415), R.A.F., 148 Sqn.

Acting Squadron Leaders.

Patrick Astley FRIEND (66016), R.A.F.V.R., 680 Sqn.

David Claridge NICHOLL (70900), R.A.F.V.R., 27 Sqn.

Hugh SCOTT (121373), R.A.F.V.R., 644 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenants.

Charles Ellis BRAYSHAW (66584), R.A.F.V.R., 277 Sqn., with effect from 20th February, 1944 (since deceased).

John COTTER (77158), R.A.F.V.R., 27 Sqn.

Graham Ralph ELLIOTT (123888), R.A.F.V.R., 272 Sqn.

William Merchant HOUSE, (119449), R.A.F.V.R., 27 Sqn.

Ewen Ranald ROBERTSON (120592), R.A.F.V.R., 60 Sqn.

Gerald STEVENS (130846), R.A.F.V.R., 684 Sqn.