

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant Warren Russell AUSTIN (Can/J. 8939), R.C.A.F., 408 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Austin is a highly skilled and resolute pilot. He has completed very many sorties against enemy targets and has set a fine example in pressing home his attacks. On one occasion in March, 1945, he piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Essen. When nearing the target one engine became unserviceable owing to an oil leakage. This did not deter Flight Lieutenant Austin who continued to the target which he eventually bombed at a height much lower than planned. His determination to make every sortie a success has won the greatest praise. He is a fine captain whose example has been well reflected in the operational efficiency of his crew.

Flight Lieutenant James Douglas Crawford CRATON (Can/J.15666), R.C.A.F., 428 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Craton is a most successful pilot and a highly efficient captain. He has completed a very large number of operational missions and his ability, coupled with great determination, has contributed materially to the successes obtained. During a sortie one night in March, 1945, his aircraft was attacked no less than seven times by enemy fighters. In the engagements, this pilot displayed great coolness and courage. In the last of the attacks by the enemy, Flight Lieutenant Craton's aircraft was badly damaged and set on fire. The bomber became uncontrollable. Although he ordered the crew to leave by parachute, this brave pilot fought to regain control. The aircraft turned completely over and Flight Lieutenant Craton was flung through the perspex of his compartment. His parachute opened and he came down in the battle area with both arms broken, bad lacerations about the face and neck and many cuts and abrasions on other parts of his body. Although in great physical distress, Flight Lieutenant Craton reached our own lines. He displayed courage, fortitude and devotion to duty of the highest order.

Flight Lieutenant Victor Henry John Le GEAR (Can/J.23040), R.C.A.F., 439 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Le Gear has completed a very large number of sorties involving attacks on German industrial centres and other targets such as bridges, gun sites, locomotives and mechanical transport. On numerous occasions he has led his squadron, and the consistently good results obtained have been due in no small measure to this officer's competence and leadership. He has inflicted much damage on the enemy and his coolness and courage have been an inspiration to other members of his squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Derek Leyland STEVENSON (102628), R.A.F.V.R., 184 Sqn.

On his second tour of operational duty this officer has completed many sorties including numerous attacks on enemy shipping. In May, 1945, he led his flight with great distinction in an attack on a medium sized cargo vessel in Lubeck Bay. Hits were obtained and the vessel was later observed to be beached and on fire. Later in the day, he led another attack against enemy shipping in Kiel waters. One coastal vessel was sunk and another severely damaged. On the return journey he sighted an enemy tug and a barge. These were attacked and left on fire. Flight Lieutenant Stevenson has invariably shown a high degree of skill, courage and determination.

Flying Officer John Alexander LAW (185341), R.A.F.V.R., 203 Sqn.

Flying Officer Law has completed much operational flying. He has displayed a high degree of skill and throughout his devotion to duty has been unflinching. In April, 1945, he flew with great distinction on a sortie during which an armed enemy vessel, escorting a merchantman, was successfully attacked. Despite much fire from the enemy's anti-aircraft guns, Flying Officer Law flew in at low level and obtained hits on the target with his bombs and machine gun fire. In this well executed attack, Flying Officer Law showed courage of a high standard.

Flying Officer Charles Frederick WORSLEY (Aus.413066), R.A.A.F., 460 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

One night in April, 1945, this officer was detailed to attack Potsdam. Shortly before the target was reached, his aircraft was attacked by an enemy aircraft. The flight engineer was wounded and died

a few minutes later. The starboard inner engine was rendered unserviceable and much other damage was sustained. Flying Officer Worsley immediately took evasive action and successfully avoided further attacks. For the moment the starboard inner and the two port engines were out of action. Despite this Flying Officer Worsley maintained his bombing run and executed his attack. Almost immediately the port engines were restarted and this officer afterwards flew his damaged aircraft back to base. He displayed great coolness, skill and resource and was undoubtedly mainly responsible for the safe return of the aircraft. Flying Officer Worsley has completed many sorties during which he has attacked a variety of targets.

Lieutenant Johannes Wilhelm SCHLEBUSCH (328503V), S.A.A.F., 184 Sqn.

This officer has completed very many sorties including attacks on enemy shipping. He has at all times proved a most reliable pilot and has displayed commendable courage and skill. At the beginning of March, 1945, he led numerous sorties against enemy motor transport, resulting in the destruction of 69 vehicles and damage to many others. On another occasion he led a flight of aircraft on a shipping attack in enemy waters. Despite intense anti-aircraft fire, hits were obtained on three enemy vessels, two of which were left on fire. Displaying characteristic keenness, Lieutenant Schlebusch then led his flight on a reconnaissance of the mainland, where 10 enemy vehicles were destroyed and a further five damaged. His example was most commendable.

Pilot Officer Allan Keith BROWN (Can/J.92578), R.C.A.F., 408 (R.C.A.F.), Sqn.

One night in April, 1945, Pilot Officer Brown was pilot in an aircraft detailed to attack Harburg. On the outward flight the port outer engine had to be put out of action. In spite of this, Pilot Officer Brown flew on to the target and executed a good attack. Soon afterwards, the starboard outer engine failed as did the port inner engine a little later. The aircraft lost height so rapidly that only three members of the crew were able to leave by parachute. At this stage, the last engine failed. Displaying outstanding coolness and exceptional skill, Pilot Officer Brown proceeded to land his aircraft by altimeter and air speed indicator only, at night, in enemy territory where not a single light was shining to assist him in a desperate situation. Fortunately his aircraft came down in open country. So well did Pilot Officer Brown accomplish his task that not a single member of his crew was injured. This officer set a splendid example of skill, coolness and courage.

Warrant Officer Cyril Douglas HUDSON (655693), R.A.F., 203 Sqn.

Warrant Officer Hudson has set a fine example of courage and resolution in air operations. In April, 1945, he piloted an aircraft detailed for a reconnaissance. In the course of the flight an enemy merchantman escorted by another ship was located. Displaying the greatest determination, Warrant Officer Hudson flew in to the attack at an extremely low level to bomb and sink the merchantman. His resolute work on this action was in keeping with that which he has shown at all times.

*Air Ministry, 6th July, 1945.*

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

*Military Medal.*

931758 Flight Sergeant Bernard Frederick BROOKS.

This N.C.O. has been employed on police duty in Greece. During the difficult conditions prevailing in Athens in December, 1944, Flight Sergeant Brooks displayed outstanding devotion to duty. Under heavy fire he led a relief party and successfully evacuated a sergeant and six men from a position which had become untenable. Later, he volunteered to drive a truck through enemy-held territory to fetch much-needed arms and ammunition. He completed the journey successfully.

902670 Sergeant Percy PITTMAN.

Sergeant Pittman has always carried out his duties in an exemplary manner. When his police headquarters was besieged by E.L.A.S. forces for 6 days he displayed devotion to duty of the highest order. During that period he was always amongst those who immediately volunteered for the more