

giving considerable trouble to our ground forces. Flight Lieutenant Hiron led his section into the attack with great skill. As a result three of the gun positions were put out of action. In other sorties this determined pilot has been responsible for destructive attacks on much mechanical transport, several barges and a number of locomotives. He has at all times displayed the greatest coolness and set a splendid example to all.

Captain William Edward COLAHAN (328383V), S.A.A.F., 72 Sqn.

This officer is an exceptionally able pilot and a fearless fighter. He has completed very many sorties during which he has successfully attacked a wide range of enemy targets. In April, 1945, Captain Colahan led a small section of aircraft in an attack against an enemy strongpoint consisting of one large and three smaller heavily defended houses. The attack was pressed home with great skill and vigour. The objective was completely destroyed. As a result our ground forces were able to advance for some distance. Some days later, Captain Colahan led a section in an attack against another heavily defended strongpoint. In spite of considerable enemy fire the attack was pressed home with great success. The determination shown by this officer was in keeping with that which he has shown throughout his tour of duty.

Captain Graham GARLICK (205773V), S.A.A.F. 250 Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties and has consistently displayed the highest standard of efficiency and courage. In April, 1945, he led a formation of aircraft in an attack on enemy military buildings north of Budrio. Despite heavy anti-aircraft fire the buildings were successfully attacked and destroyed. Captain Garlick's example of coolness and determination on this sortie undoubtedly inspired the rest of his flight. On another occasion he led an attack against two enemy tanks sheltering between buildings near Massa Lombarda. This officer destroyed one of the buildings and it was later confirmed that the tanks had also been destroyed. This officer has at all times displayed exceptional zeal and devotion to duty. He has set a fine example to all.

Flying Officer Jack Geoffrey COX (Aus.411750), R.A.A.F., 455 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of operational missions, including many valuable reconnaissances during which he has obtained information of great value; he has also taken part in numerous successful attacks on enemy shipping. On one occasion, early in his operational career, Flying Officer Cox piloted an aircraft in an attack against 4 enemy minesweepers. During the run-in, his aircraft was hit. Flying Officer Cox was struck in the arm by a piece of shrapnel. Despite this he executed his attack and afterwards flew his badly damaged aircraft back to an airfield where he effected a successful crash-landing. This officer has set a fine example of gallantry and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Gerald John DALY (149886), R.A.F.V.R.

As navigator, Flying Officer Daly has taken part in numerous notable attacks on enemy shipping. Throughout these operations he has displayed the highest standard of skill and co-operation, qualities which have played a good part in the successes obtained. In May, 1945, he was navigator in the leading aircraft of a large formation which attacked shipping in the Baltic area. His faultless work on this occasion won great praise. Flying Officer Daly has at all times shown exceptional keenness and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Brian GIBSON (158739), R.A.F.V.R., 93 Sqn.

Flying Officer Gibson has completed a large number of sorties over the battle area and has been responsible for the destruction of very many mechanical vehicles and other enemy equipment. In April, 1945, he took part in a sortie during which some 18 large motor transports and heavily defended vehicles were most effectively attacked. This officer has proved himself to be a highly skilled and fearless pilot whose example in pressing home his attacks has played a good part in the great success of his squadron. His devotion to duty has been unswerving.

Flying Officer Philip Frederick SOUTHERWOOD (N.Z.422438), R.N.Z.A.F., 489 (R.N.Z.A.F.) Sqn.

Throughout his tour of operational duty this officer has consistently shown a high degree of skill and determination. He has taken part in many successful attacks on shipping and his accurate and resolute work has played a good part in the successes obtained. In May, 1945, Flying Officer Southernwood executed a good attack on an escorted tanker, setting it on fire. This officer has set a fine example of devotion to duty.

Lieutenant Philip Jacobus LAGESEN (203584V), S.A.A.F., 31 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer was the second pilot in an aircraft detailed to attack the Parona rail/road bridge at Verona. Soon after leaving the target area the aircraft was attacked by a fighter. Evading action was taken but the aircraft was hit by a burst of machine gun fire. Much damage was sustained. A fire commenced in the rear of the aircraft. Being unable to communicate with other members of the crew, owing to the unserviceability of the inter-communication system, Lieutenant Lagesen went aft to investigate. He found the rear gun turret on fire. The rear gunner lay wounded just outside the turret. Ammunition was exploding intermittently. Despite this, Lieutenant Lagesen fought strenuously to overcome the flames and finally subdued them by means of extinguishers. He then turned his attention to aiding his wounded comrade. Just then, another fighter closed in. Lieutenant Lagesen promptly manned the beam gun and assisted the mid-upper gunner to drive off the attacker. Fire again broke out in the rear of the aircraft. All the effective extinguishers had been used. Nevertheless, Lieutenant Lagesen tore down and threw out some burning material and then beat out the remainder of the fire with his hands. This officer set a splendid example of courage and coolness in the face of great danger.

Lieutenant Sydney John TREZISE (206389V), S.A.A.F., 31 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Lieutenant Trezise was the pilot in an aircraft engaged on a sortie one night in April, 1945. At one stage during the operation, the aircraft was attacked by 2 enemy fighters. In the engagement the rear gunner was wounded. Lieutenant Trezise had manoeuvred with much skill to finally evade the attackers but his aircraft had sustained much damage. The elevators were shot away. The throttle control cables to the two starboard engines were severed, whilst the intercommunication system and the wireless apparatus were rendered useless. In spite of this, Lieutenant Trezise flew back to base. Although the aircraft was difficult to control, this resolute pilot effected a safe landing. He set a very fine example of skill and coolness throughout.

Pilot Officer Leslie HOPWOOD (195417), R.A.F.V.R., 254 Sqn.

Pilot Officer Hopwood has completed much operational flying. He completed a tour of duty in the Middle East theatre and throughout set a fine example of keenness and devotion to duty. Since joining this squadron, Pilot Officer Hopwood has participated in numerous attacks on enemy shipping. In May, 1945, he took part in an attack against shipping in the Baltic area. Throughout the operation he displayed the greatest resolution. Five times he led his section in to attack various targets despite considerable anti-aircraft fire, good results being obtained.

Warrant Officer Frederick Thomas CORNISH (1316320), R.A.F.V.R., 236 Sqn.

Warrant Officer Cornish has displayed commendable skill and courage in his attacks on enemy shipping. Undeterred by the heaviest opposition he has invariably pressed home his attacks with skill and resolution. On two successive days early in May, 1945, Warrant Officer Cornish flew with great distinction in attacks on shipping in Kiel Bay.

Warrant Officer John Douglas NICOL (1339071), R.A.F.V.R., 86 Sqn.

In May 1945, Warrant Officer Nicol was pilot and captain of an aircraft engaged on reconnaissance over the Skaggerak. Three surfaced U-boats were sighted. In spite of considerable opposing fire, Warrant Officer Nicol pressed home an attack which resulted in the destruction of one of the