

Captain Neville Vernon COATS (205526V), S.A.A.F., 31 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Captain Coats has participated in a large number of sorties many of which were over difficult terrain and in adverse weather. Throughout his skill and courage have been of the highest standard and he has invariably pressed home his attacks with outstanding success. On one occasion, despite intense enemy opposition, he successfully completed a 1,900 mile round flight to carry out a supply dropping mission over enemy held territory. The following night he completed a similar hazardous journey. The keenness and devotion to duty of this officer have been unflinching.

Captain Eustace Lloyd GARSON (47216V), S.A.A.F., 30 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Throughout three tours of operational duty this officer has displayed outstanding skill and keenness. He has completed many long and hazardous sorties from various theatres of war as leading flight navigator, and his efficiency has been an important factor in the success of many of the operations in which he has taken part. On one occasion in April, 1945, Captain Garson led a successful attack on enemy transport and tanks massing to cross the river Po at Cousori. Despite heavy anti-aircraft fire many hits were obtained. This officer has shown great enthusiasm and devotion to duty and has proved himself a valuable asset to his squadron.

Captain Henry Paul WILES (8899V), S.A.A.F., 2 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has displayed a high degree of skill and courage in air operations. He has participated in a large number of sorties and throughout has pressed home his attacks with great determination. In harassing attacks on enemy transport Captain Wiles has been responsible for the destruction of many mechanical vehicles. On one occasion in March, 1945, this officer led an attack against a sugar refinery near Migliarino. Intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered, but due to the fine leadership and ability of Captain Wiles, the target was successfully bombed. This officer has set a fine example of devotion to duty and coolness in the face of the enemy and has done much to build up and maintain the high standard of his squadron.

Lieutenant William Adams DOWDEN (205698V), S.A.A.F., 1 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Lieutenant Dowden has completed many sorties during which much success has been obtained. He

has set an outstanding example of skill and keenness and has inflicted much material damage on the enemy. In March, 1945, he led a formation of aircraft in an attack against an important enemy building near Solarolo. He scored two direct hits and the building was left in flames. Lieutenant Dowden then continued on a low level reconnaissance at Polesella. The area was very heavily defended and his aircraft was hit and burst into flames. The aircraft became uncontrollable and this officer was forced to leave by parachute. He had a successful landing but was unable to evade capture. His determination, courage and devotion to duty have been an inspiration to all.

Lieutenant Robert Edmund DE JONGH (206971V), S.A.A.F., 1 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has displayed the highest standard of efficiency and courage. He has completed a very large number of sorties including many reconnaissances. In April, 1945, Lieutenant de Jongh was leading a formation of aircraft on a strafing reconnaissance. A convoy of motor transport was observed in the Montebelluno area. Despite adverse weather and heavy enemy opposition, this officer led the formation into attack. Twelve of the enemy vehicles were subsequently destroyed and a further three damaged. In air fighting Lieutenant de Jongh has been responsible for the destruction of at least one enemy fighter and has damaged others.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1458458 Flight Sergeant Walter Melvin MONKMAN, R.A.F.V.R., 249 Sqn.

Flight Sergeant Monkman has participated in many sorties during which much success has been obtained. Numerous locomotives, railway trucks, marshalling yards and gun positions have been most effectively attacked. On one occasion in March, 1945, Flight Sergeant Monkman attacked an ammunition train near Derventa. As he flew over the waggons they exploded beneath his aircraft setting it on fire. Nevertheless, this airman flew on in the direction of partisan held country. Only when he was beyond enemy territory, did he leave his aircraft by parachute. This action was typical of the coolness and courage shown throughout his tour of operational duty.

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