

and Flying Officer Hamilton flew safely to base. Twice on the homeward flight the aircraft was attacked by fighters but they were driven off. In hazardous circumstances this officer displayed great skill, courage and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer David Morton MANSEL-PLEYDELL (132850), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 15 Squadron.

As air bomber this officer has completed very many sorties against strongly defended targets such as Berlin, Hamburg and Essen. He has proved himself to be a most reliable member of aircraft crew and the successes obtained are an excellent testimony to his skill and precision. He has at all times displayed praiseworthy keenness and devotion to duty, setting a fine example.

Pilot Officer John Douglas HARVEY (Can/J85081), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 408 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has participated in very many sorties, involving attacks on most of the enemy's heavily defended targets. He has invariably displayed great skill and courage and his example in pressing home his attacks has been worthy of much praise. In the course of his tour, Pilot Officer Harvey has attacked Berlin on 11 occasions.

Pilot Officer Wallace George PHILLIPS (Can/J19005), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 408 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed a notable tour of operations during which he has attacked the German capital on 10 occasions. He has at all times displayed exceptional ability and has set a fine example of courage and resolution.

Pilot Officer George Mair SCADE (168848), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 419 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has set a fine example of skill, determination and devotion to duty throughout a tour on which he has attacked many distant and strongly defended targets. On one occasion whilst over Germany his aircraft was extensively damaged by machine gun fire from a fighter. The fuselage was riddled by bullets, the bomb doors were shot away and the windscreen was shattered. Although subjected to bitter cold, Pilot Officer Scade flew the damaged aircraft to base. His achievement in the face of extreme difficulty merited high praise.

Warrant Officer Kenneth Albert LANE (1314755) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 83 Squadron.

This warrant officer was the pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack Munich one night in April, 1944. When approaching the target the aircraft was illuminated by the searchlights and subjected to heavy fire from the ground defences. The starboard inner engine was hit by shrapnel and caught fire. Soon afterwards a second engine was hit and burst into flames. Undeterred, Warrant Officer Lane continued his bombing run and pressed home his attack. Afterwards, the flames in the burning engines were quelled and course was set for home with the 2 engines out of action. A little later, as a result of a fault in the petrol system, a third engine began to fail. Warrant Officer Lane promptly ordered the crew to jettison all moveable equipment, including guns, in an effort to maintain height. Considerable height was lost, however, before one of the defective engines could be re-started but then Warrant Officer Lane flew on at a low altitude and finally reached base. He displayed great skill, courage and devotion to duty in the face of a dangerous and difficult situation.

#### *Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Pilot Officer Ian ROBERTSON (171217) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 77 Squadron.

#### *Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1215799 Flight Sergeant Alfred PRESBURY, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 77 Squadron.

633390 Flight Sergeant Francis William WALTERS, Royal Air Force, No. 77 Squadron.

One night in April, 1944, this officer and these airmen were pilot, rear and mid-upper gunners respectively of an aircraft detailed for a mine-laying mission. On 2 occasions during the operation the aircraft was attacked by fighters. The pilot and gunners co-operated with great skill, however, and both engagements were terminated successfully. The first attacker was driven off with

smoke pouring from its engines and the second fighter was shot down and was seen to explode on impact with the ground. These members of aircraft crew have completed many sorties and on several occasions have successfully fought off enemy fighters. Their skill, courage and co-operation have set a very fine example.

#### *Distinguished Flying Medal.*

Can/R171696 Flight Sergeant Arthur Bruce CABLE, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 424 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

As rear gunner, this airman has participated in very many sorties and has proved himself to be a fearless and skilful member of aircraft crew. On a recent occasion he was the rear gunner of an aircraft detailed to attack Augsburg. On the outward flight the aircraft was intercepted by a fighter. As the enemy aircraft came into close range, Flight Sergeant Cable delivered a short burst of fire following which all his guns but one became jammed. Nevertheless, Flight Sergeant Cable fired his remaining gun with great effect, hitting the enemy aircraft with a stream of bullets. The attacker caught fire and fell to the ground where it exploded on impact. Flight Sergeant Cable's determination and vigilance on this occasion was typical of that he has shown throughout his tour.

1113459 Flight Sergeant (now Warrant Officer) John Albert RILEY, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 218 Squadron.

As captain and pilot, Flight Sergeant Riley has taken part in numerous sorties. He has displayed commendable skill and gallantry and his example of devotion to duty has been of a high order.

1209681 Sergeant Henry George BRADY, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 619 Squadron.

As wireless operator (air) this airman has participated in very many sorties and has displayed commendable skill and coolness throughout. On a recent occasion he was a member of the crew in an aircraft which attacked Brunswick. Soon after leaving the target he sighted a fighter closing in. Displaying great coolness he warned his pilot to take evasive action at the appropriate moment. The enemy aircraft made 2 more attacks before it was hit by a burst of fire which caused it to dive steeply with smoke pouring from its engines. Throughout the fight, Sergeant Brady directed the combat manoeuvres with much skill and his efforts played a good part in frustrating the attacker. This airman has completed many sorties and has invariably displayed praiseworthy vigilance and devotion to duty.

#### *Air Ministry, 19th May, 1944.*

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

#### *Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Squadron Leader Humphrey a'Becket RUSSELL (37692), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 164 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Cyril Frank COUNTER (85689), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 261 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Gwyn David Morgan THOMAS (110636), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 294 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Lionel Henry DAWES (112699), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 607 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Leslie Henry HODDER (123121), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 605 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Peter Arthur KNAPTON (116984), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 134 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Douglas Benjamin Fletcher NICHOLLS (114121), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 258 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Vernon Douglas PAGE (65502), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 11 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Michael Grey RIDLEY-MARTIN (47442), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 170 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Ralph William Frazer SAMPSON (116753), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 131 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Eric Vernon SMITH (82172), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 109 Squadron.