

many sorties and has assisted in the destruction of 4 enemy aircraft.

Pilot Officer John IRVINE (172901), R.A.F.V.R., 605 Sqn.

This officer has participated in very many sorties, including numerous missions far into enemy territory. He is a most skilful observer, whose great zeal and fighting spirit have set a very fine example. He has assisted in the destruction of 2 enemy aircraft in the air at night.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flying Officer James Marshall McRAE (Can/J.20176), R.C.A.F., 162 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Warrant Officer Second Class Joseph Jean Charles BERCEVIN (Can/R117327), R.C.A.F., 162 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

Can/R.22030 Acting Sergeant Robert Francis CROMARTY, R.C.A.F., 162 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

These members of aircraft crew participated in an attack on a U-boat in 1944, and displayed a high standard of skill and co-operation which contributed materially to the success obtained. In the fight the aircraft sustained severe damage and afterwards the captain was forced to bring it down on to the sea. The inter-communication system had failed and, owing to the rapidity of the action, there was no time to plan for the landing. Nevertheless, with great presence of mind and good judgment, Sergeant Cromarty lowered the wing tip floats and thus enabled the aircraft to touch down successfully. Meanwhile, Warrant Officer Bercevin had remained at his wireless apparatus transmitting distress signals and only left his post when the aircraft was on the verge of sinking. Subsequently the crew were adrift in the dinghy for some 7 hours. During the period, Flying Officer McRae and his two comrades displayed great fortitude and cheerfulness and did much to succour and inspire other survivors in their distress. Their example throughout was of the highest order.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flying Officer William Boris TILLEY (Aus.418483), R.A.A.F., 10 Sqn.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

Aus.434243 Flight Sergeant Lance Esmond COOKE, R.A.A.F., 10 Sqn.

This officer and airman were captain and front gunner respectively of an aircraft which successfully attacked a U-boat in 1944. In the run-in, heavy anti-aircraft fire was encountered but Flight Sergeant Cooke, shooting brilliantly, sprayed the deck of the submarine with his bullets and silenced the enemy's guns. Flying Officer Tilley was enabled to press home his attack from close range and released his depth charges in a perfect straddle, causing the submarine's destruction. The success achieved reflects the greatest credit on the skill, gallantry and resolution of this captain and his gunner.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1555480 Flight Sergeant Ian Alastair Campbell BLUE, R.A.F.V.R., 182 Sqn.

One day in August, 1944, Flight Sergeant Blue led a section of his squadron to attack an enemy tank force. Despite intense and accurate enemy fire the attack was pressed home so successfully that at least six tanks were destroyed. This airman has completed many sorties and has proved himself a courageous and efficient pilot.

1850681 Flight Sergeant Frederick Charles BRICE, R.A.F.V.R., 578 Sqn.

As air gunner this airman has participated in a large number of sorties, including attacks on such targets as Berlin, Stuttgart and Frankfurt. On one occasion his aircraft was badly damaged in an engagement with 2 enemy fighters. When coming in to land at base the aircraft crashed and Flight Sergeant Brice was injured. Since his recovery he has undertaken many sorties and has displayed the greatest keenness, determination and devotion to duty.

569640 Flight Sergeant Ronald Fletcher WEBBER, R.A.F., 230 Sqn.

As flying engineer of a flying boat this airman took part in a number of sorties, involving the evacuation of casualties from a forward area in Central Burma. Throughout he displayed ex-

ceptional determination and devotion to duty and played a worthy part in the success of a difficult and dangerous operation.

1460855 Flight Sergeant (now Pilot Officer) Francis KERSHAW, R.A.F.V.R., 158 Sqn.

In June, 1944, this airman was the air bomber in an aircraft detailed to attack Villers Bocage, a village vital to the passage of enemy ground forces and in which supplies were centred. In the face of a hail of light and heavy anti-aircraft fire, Flight Sergeant Kershaw directed the bombing run with great coolness. The aircraft was hit repeatedly and many holes were torn in his compartment. Nevertheless, Flight Sergeant Kershaw continued to direct a steady course and pressed home his attack with great determination. This airman has participated in a large number of sorties and has displayed courage and devotion to duty of a high order.

Aus.433132 Flight Sergeant Douglas James PEGG, R.A.A.F., 103 Sqn.

This airman was the mid-upper gunner of an aircraft detailed to attack Stuttgart one night in July, 1944. On the outward flight the aircraft was attacked by a fighter. In the engagement, Flight Sergeant Pegg was severely injured in the leg and the foot. His turret was rendered un-serviceable but, injured as he was, he insisted on remaining at his post alert to the danger of any further fighter opposition. On this his first sortie, Flight Sergeant Pegg displayed praiseworthy courage and devotion to duty.

Can/R.163541 Flight Sergeant Douglas Richard PENNY, R.C.A.F., 432 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

As rear gunner this airman has participated in very many sorties most of which were against targets in Germany. He is a fearless and efficient member of aircraft crew, whose devotion to duty has been unflinching. One night in July, 1944, when returning from Hamburg, his aircraft was attacked by a Junkers 88. In the ensuing fight his excellent evading directions and good shooting assisted in the destruction of the enemy fighter.

Can/R.161467 Flight Sergeant Jack Albert PHILLIS, R.C.A.F., 419 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

One night in July, 1944, this airman piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Villeneuve St. George. When crossing the enemy coast the bomber was involved in a fight with an enemy aircraft. One engine was put out of action, a fuel tank was pierced and the fuselage was damaged. Despite this, Flight Sergeant Phillis went on to the target which he attacked after evading 2 more fighters which tried to close in. His determination and devotion to duty were typical of that which he has shown throughout his tour.

Aus.401752 Flight Sergeant Donald Walter Norman SMITH, R.A.A.F., 640 Sqn.

This airman has completed a tour of operational duty on which he has taken part in attacks on a wide range of strongly defended targets. He is a cool, and courageous gunner whose vigilance and good shooting have on more than one occasion contributed materially to the safe return of the aircraft. He has set a fine example of devotion to duty.

1809189 Sergeant Frank Frederick John BUTLER, R.A.F.V.R., 640 Sqn.

As rear gunner Sergeant Butler has taken part in a large number of sorties. He is an alert, resolute, and efficient gunner and on more than one occasion has driven off enemy fighters. He has proved a valuable member of aircraft crew.

1607313 Sergeant Ronald Frederick DAWSON, R.A.F.V.R., 103 Sqn.

2210552 Sergeant Vincent Charles YATES, R.A.F.V.R., 103 Sqn.

These airmen were mid-upper and rear gunners respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Stuttgart one night in July, 1944. On the outward flight their aircraft was attacked by two enemy fighters within the space of a few minutes. Both the attackers were shot down and the success achieved reflects the greatest credit on the efforts of these members of aircraft crew whose efficiency, good shooting and excellent co-operation set a fine example.

1868905 Sergeant James NORMAN, R.A.F.V.R., 419 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

In July, 1944, Sergeant Norman was the flight engineer in an aircraft detailed to attack Siracourt. It was a daylight sortie. When crossing the