

not leave until he was satisfied that all his comrades were clear. When he finally jumped the aircraft was down to a low altitude. This officer has invariably displayed the highest standard of courage and devotion to duty. He has completed very many sorties and, in his determination to complete his missions successfully, has often remained over the target for long periods.

Squadron Leader James Joseph O'MEARA, D.F.C. (40844), R.A.F.O., 131 Sqn.

Squadron Leader O'Meara has completed a notable tour and throughout has displayed a high degree of skill and gallantry. His genius for leadership has been most evident and has contributed in a large way to the operational efficiency of the squadron he commands. He is a relentless fighter and has destroyed 12 enemy aircraft and damaged many more.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Robert Mather ETCHELLS (161599), R.A.F.V.R., 156 Sqn.

One night in August, 1944, Flight Lieutenant Etchells was captain of an aircraft in an attack on Kiel. Just as the bombs were released over the target, the aircraft was attacked and damaged by an enemy fighter. An engine was put out of action, the rear turret was rendered unserviceable and the fuselage holed in many places. Nevertheless course was set for base. The enemy coast was safely crossed but shortly afterwards Flight Lieutenant Etchells was compelled to bring his aircraft down on to the sea. The crew got safely aboard the dinghy and some hours later they were sighted by a pilot of an aircraft who reported their position. During the next day and night they drifted until an airborne lifeboat was dropped safely to them. This was boarded and course was set for England. Before the English coast was reached the crew were picked up by a fishing vessel just as the position was becoming extremely serious. Throughout a most trying ordeal Flight Lieutenant Etchells displayed great leadership and courage and his excellent example helped greatly to maintain the morale of the crew.

*Distinguished Service Order.*

Acting Flight Lieutenant George Eric WHITELEY (135872), R.A.F.V.R., 172 Sqn.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Warrant Officer Gordon Henry BULLEY (Can/K. 124688), R.C.A.F., 172 Sqn.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1383877 Flight Sergeant John William Cecil FORD, R.A.F.V.R., 172 Sqn.

One night in August, 1944, Flight Lieutenant Whiteley was captain and pilot of an aircraft engaged on an anti-submarine patrol. Warrant Officer Bulley and Flight Sergeant Ford were wireless operators/air in the aircraft. During the patrol, a fully-surfaced U. boat was seen and attacked immediately. Despite accurate fire from the submarine, Flight Lieutenant Whiteley unflinchingly continued his run in and released his depth charges as his aircraft passed over the vessel. The bomber sustained severe damage and crashed into the sea. Only one dinghy was available as the aircraft sank immediately. Warrant Officer Bulley climbed through the astro hatch when some 15 to 20 feet below the surface. He swam round, flashing a torch until he found the rest of the crew and helped them into the dinghy. Then he remained in the water, tied to the dinghy, endeavouring to keep it head to sea. When the crew were picked up, this airman had been in the water for 15 hours. During this time Flight Sergeant Ford, who had been badly wounded, displayed great cheerfulness and was an inspiration to his companions.

*Distinguished Service Order.*

Acting Flying Officer Thomas WILSON (I82012), R.A.F.V.R., 622 Sqn.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant Robert Irvine GILLIES (Aus.413568), R.A.A.F., 622 Sqn.

One night in August, 1944, these officers were pilot and navigator respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Kiel. Whilst over the target area the aircraft sustained severe damage. The cabin roof was smashed and the engineer's compartment wrecked. All the electrical equipment

failed. Flying Officer Wilson was badly wounded. With his right arm useless and almost blinded by splinters, he retained control of the aircraft and headed for home. Throughout the homeward flight, Flight Lieutenant Gillies proved a tower of strength. Although deprived of the use of all his navigational equipment which had been wrecked he directed the course from memory and his ability undoubtedly played a large part in the safe return of the aircraft to this country. Flying Officer Wilson and Flight Lieutenant Gillies displayed the highest standard of gallantry and devotion to duty under most trying circumstances.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Wing Commander David Foster DENNIS, D.S.O., D.F.C. (64274), R.A.F.V.R., 21 Sqn.

Wing Commander Dennis has commanded his squadron with marked success. One night in August, he was detailed for a particularly hazardous attack on a transporter bridge across the Seine. The enemy defences in the area were extremely heavy. Disregarding the opposition this officer led his aircraft in to the attack scoring hits with his bombs. Wing Commander Dennis has completed very many sorties including numerous night attacks. His leadership, initiative and courage have been of a high order.

Acting Squadron Leader James Francis EDWARDS, D.F.C., D.F.M. (Can/J.16077), R.C.A.F., 274 Sqn.

This officer has successfully completed a very large number of operational flights and has destroyed 13 enemy aircraft. He is a keen and courageous pilot whose example and leadership have been most inspiring.

Acting Squadron Leader Brian Edmund WILMOT, D.F.C. (Can/J.23777), R.C.A.F., 415 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Since the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross, Squadron Leader Wilmot has completed numerous sorties against a variety of targets. On a recent operation against Brunswick, although his aircraft was attacked and severely damaged by enemy night fighters, Squadron Leader Wilmot displayed great skill and determination in pressing home his attack and in bringing his damaged aircraft safely back to base. He has set a worthy example.

Flight Lieutenant Gilbert George POTIER, D.F.C. (61244), R.A.F.V.R., 53 Sqn.

This officer has displayed a high degree of skill, leadership and devotion to duty. He has participated in a large number of sorties including numerous U-boat attacks and has inflicted much damage on the enemy. Flight Lieutenant Potier has set a fine example to all.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant Reginald Arthur MILLER, D.F.C. (123201), R.A.F.V.R., 604 Sqn.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Pilot Officer Peter CATCHPOLE (179137), R.A.F.V.R., 604 Sqn.

These officers have completed very many sorties in the role of pilot and observer respectively. They have displayed a high degree of skill and resolution and have destroyed 3 enemy aircraft at night. Pilot Officer Catchpole has also assisted in the destruction of another enemy aircraft.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Richard Gordon Nicholas PRYOR (102301), R.A.F.V.R., 148 Sqn.

Squadron Leader Pryor has flown on many operational sorties and has displayed a high degree of courage and efficiency. In August, 1944, he was detailed to undertake a difficult sortie. In spite of considerable searchlight activity and anti-aircraft fire, Squadron Leader Pryor executed his task with success. His coolness and courage in the face of such danger set a fine example.

Flight Lieutenant Peter Antony BATES (111258), R.A.F.V.R., 141 Sqn.

Pilot Officer William Guy CADMAN (179139), R.A.F.V.R., 141 Sqn.

As pilot and observer respectively these officers have completed numerous sorties on their second tour of operations. They have at all times displayed a high degree of skill and keenness, setting an excellent example. They have destroyed 3 enemy aircraft.