

usual tenacity, went on to press home his attack. His determination to complete his missions successfully has won much praise.

Acting Squadron Leader Robert Richardson MONK (122227), R.A.F.V.R., 174 Sqn.

This officer has set a fine example of skill and gallantry in air operations. He has participated in a large number of sorties, involving attacks on a wide range of enemy targets. In March, 1945, Squadron Leader Monk led a formation of aircraft in an attack against an enemy gun position in the Rhine area. Despite poor visibility, owing to the smoke and dust of battle, Squadron Leader Monk pressed home a determined and successful low level attack. He displayed praiseworthy courage and resolution throughout.

Flight Lieutenant John Maurice WALLACE (Can/J.14453), R.C.A.F., 432 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer is a most efficient and resolute captain. He has participated in many sorties and throughout has set a fine example of devotion to duty. On one occasion, in January, 1945, Flight Lieutenant Wallace piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Grevenbroitch. On the outward flight one of his engines failed. In spite of this, Flight Lieutenant Wallace continued to the target and executed a good attack within a few minutes of the planned time of arrival. This officer displayed exceptional skill and his determination was in keeping with that which he has shown on all occasions.

Captain Reginald Arthur GEATER (15879V), S.A.A.F., 19 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has displayed a high standard of operational efficiency, coupled with great resolution and devotion to duty. On his first sortie, Captain Geater piloted an aircraft in an attack on a Siebel ferry. Intense anti-aircraft fire was encountered. Captain Geater's aircraft was very badly hit, and this pilot was compelled to bring it down on water from which he and his crew were rescued later. Since then Captain Geater has completed many sorties during which he has successfully attacked a variety of enemy targets. He has set a fine example of skill and courage in pressing home his attacks.

Flight Lieutenant John Cyril Edwin ATKINS (113431), R.A.F.V.R., 219 Sqn.

Flying Officer Douglas Roy MAYO (168989), R.A.F.V.R., 219 Sqn.

These officers have shown great keenness for air operations. As pilot and observer respectively they have participated in very many sorties and have destroyed 3 enemy aircraft in the air and have effectively attacked several more on the ground. They have set a fine example of skill and tenacity throughout.

Flying Officer Herbert BENSON (159879), R.A.F.V.R., 156 Sqn.

One night in March, 1945, this officer was pilot and captain in an aircraft detailed to attack Nurnberg. Whilst over the target the aircraft was struck by a stream of bullets from an enemy fighter. Extensive damage was sustained. The perspex around the pilot's compartment was shattered. Some of the flying instruments were destroyed. The port mainplane was holed and the starboard elevator was smashed. The port outer engine was hit and put out of action. The aircraft went into a dive. Although one of his arms was badly numbed through being struck by a piece of shrapnel, Flying Officer Benson succeeded in regaining a measure of control. The situation was most serious. Three members of the crew had been wounded in addition to the damage that the bomber had sustained. Despite this, Flying Officer Benson was determined to bring the aircraft home, if possible. Displaying exceptional determination, coupled with great skill, he succeeded in so doing. This airman displayed fine captaincy, high courage and great coolness in very trying circumstances.

Flying Officer Terence CONNER (179535), R.A.F.V.R., 57 Sqn.

This officer has participated in very many sorties and throughout has displayed great skill and tenacity. His fine fighting spirit was well illustrated on one occasion in March, 1945, when detailed to attack Hamburg. Although one engine failed on the outward flight, Flying Officer Conner continued to the target and pressed home a good attack in spite of much fire from the ground defences. His keenness and devotion to duty have set a fine example.

Flying Officer Douglas Hereward SWAIN (Aus.410791), R.A.A.F., 128 Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of operational missions. He has set a fine example of skill and courage and throughout his devotion to duty has been unflinching. One night in March, 1945, Flying Officer Swain piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Wurtzburg. The area was covered by thick cloud. Nevertheless, Flying Officer Swain came down below the clouds to attack the target with great precision. This officer displayed great perseverance and gallantry in completing his mission successfully.

Warrant Officer William Jack HODGES (1386490), R.A.F.V.R., 174 Sqn.

Warrant Officer Hodges has participated in many sorties, including a number in the Osnabruck area where enemy locomotives and much mechanical transport have been most effectively attacked. In March, 1945, he led a small formation of aircraft in an attack against a target in support of our forward troops in the Rhine area. The attack was pressed home with great determination and much loss was inflicted on the enemy. By his skilful leadership, Warrant Officer Hodges contributed materially to the success achieved.

Government House, Canberra, 4th May, 1945.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations in the South West Pacific area:—

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commander George D'Arcy WENTWORTH (Aus.260604).

Squadron Leader John Geoffrey HOSKINS (Aus.261718).

Acting Squadron Leader Leonard Ernest Henry PARSONS (Aus.250826).

Flight Lieutenant John Arthur Leo ARCHER (Aus.408616).

Flight Lieutenant Donald William EISENHAUER (Aus.400464).

Flight Lieutenant Alwyn Lawrence GREENAWAY (Aus.41140).

Flight Lieutenant Stephen Greenwood HALES (Aus.415029).

Acting Flight Lieutenant John Conway SIMPSON (Aus.400558).

Flying Officer Colin Stuart BROWN (Aus.407819).

Flying Officer Kenneth Neil WATERS (Aus.408192).

Warrant Officer George Hedley CANE (Aus.35437).

Warrant Officer Richard Bower DAKEYNE (Aus.421181).

Warrant Officer George Burgess MOORE (Aus.35941).

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Aus.26803 Flight Sergeant Thomas CARMAN.

Aus.418839 Flight Sergeant Bryan Mitchell HOOKING.

Aus.11601 Flight Sergeant Claude Arnold RIPPER.

The KING has also been graciously pleased to approve the following award:—

Air Force Cross.

Squadron Leader Robert Reid RUSSELL (Aus.270832).

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the publication of the names of the following Royal Australian Air Force personnel who have been mentioned in despatches:—

Group Captains.

C. D. CANDY.

A. M. MURDOCH.

C. W. PEARCE.

D. E. G. WALKER.

Wing Commander.

J. D. GALVIN.

Acting Wing Commander.

M. H. MEYERS (Aus.262607).

Squadron Leaders.

P. E. BREHENY (Aus.251272).

C. R. COBBY (Aus.250918).

S. W. DOBELL-BROWN (Aus.261658).

R. F. GOON (Aus.251686).