

officer has invariably displayed a high degree of skill, courage and determination, setting a fine example to all.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Harold Rowland ROWLANDS (Aus.402404), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 213 Squadron.

This officer has completed a noteworthy tour of operations during which he has displayed a high degree of skill, great keenness and determination. Since joining his present squadron, Flight Lieutenant Rowlands has led formations of aircraft on many sorties over the Castelrosso-Rhodes area. On one occasion, 12 Junker 88s were intercepted. In the ensuing fight, 3 enemy aircraft were shot down, one of them by Flight Lieutenant Rowlands. This officer is a most efficient flight commander, whose fine leadership and personal example have been worthy of great praise.

Flying Officer Clifford Frank BULL (Can./J.20632), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 38 Squadron.

This officer has completed very many sorties, including a number of anti-submarine patrols and mine-laying missions. One night in February, 1944, Flying Officer Bull captained one of a formation of aircraft which attacked a medium-sized ship in Aegean waters. Although his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire, Flying Officer Bull pressed home his attack from mast height and obtained two hits on the vessel. He displayed great courage and determination.

Flying Officer Lawrence Francis Marshall CRONIN (Aus.400913), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 81 Squadron.

In air operations this officer has proved himself to be a determined and resourceful fighter. He has destroyed at least 5 enemy aircraft, successes which are an excellent tribute to his skill and gallantry in combat.

Flying Officer Christopher Bennett URWIN (126027), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 38 Squadron

One night in February, 1944, this officer captained one of a formation of aircraft which successfully attacked a medium-sized ship in the Aegean Sea. In spite of intense anti-aircraft fire from the vessel and its four escorting ships, Flying Officer Urwin pressed home a successful attack from mast height. In this action Flying Officer Urwin displayed great skill, courage and resolution, qualities which have been well in evidence throughout the many sorties in which he has participated.

Pilot Officer John CHATTERTON (159568), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 44 Squadron.

This officer has completed very many sorties and has displayed commendable skill, courage and devotion to duty. His determination and fine fighting qualities were well illustrated in a recent sortie against Leipzig. On the outward flight the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. A fragment of shrapnel shattered the windscreen above Pilot Officer Chatterton's head and he was hit and stunned but soon recovered. Undeterred by the intense cold caused by the wind blowing through the broken windscreen, Pilot Officer Chatterton continued his mission. When nearing the target the bomber was again hit by fire from the ground defences. Damage was sustained which resulted in a complete failure of the oxygen supply. Nevertheless, Pilot Officer Chatterton pressed home his attack and afterwards flew the aircraft to base. His example of courage, determination and devotion to duty was highly commendable.

Pilot Officer John Alfred SANDERS (168674), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 49 Squadron.

In February, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Augsburg. When approaching the target the aircraft was attacked by a fighter and sustained severe damage. Large holes were torn in the fuselage, while the starboard rudder and elevator were almost shot away. The aircraft dived steeply out of control. At this stage, the rear gunner reported that the bomber was on fire near his turret. Nevertheless, Pilot Officer Sanders, with the assistance of the flight engineer, managed to regain control. Meanwhile, other members of the crew fought the fire and, although bullets were exploding in the fuselage they succeeded in putting out the flames. The

inter-communication system was now out of action as the wiring had been burned through. The rear gunner lay unconscious through lack of oxygen. In spite of these trying circumstances perfect discipline prevailed. Course was set for home and, displaying great skill, Pilot Officer Sanders, succeeded in flying the badly damaged aircraft to base. He displayed courage, coolness and determination of a high order.

Warrant Officer Jeremiah Michael O'LEARY (1386554), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 114 Squadron.

Warrant Officer O'Leary was an air gunner in an aircraft detailed to attack a railway station where a very big force of enemy troops and vehicles was being concentrated. When nearing the objective a continuous movement of mechanical transport towards the railway was seen. In the face of considerable light anti-aircraft fire from the ground defences, Warrant Officer O'Leary raked the position with machine gun fire, hitting many vehicles with his bullets. His deadly and unflinching fire was an important factor in enabling his pilot to complete a successful bombing run. This air gunner has completed a very large number of sorties and has invariably displayed a fine fighting spirit, great keenness and devotion to duty.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flying Officer William Noel Thomsett RUSSELL (Aus.410122), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 466 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

Aus.410869 Flight Sergeant William Michael CASHMAN, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 466 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer and airman were pilot and mid-upper gunner respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Stuttgart one night in March, 1944. When nearing the target the aircraft was engaged by a fighter and sustained much damage. The rear gunner was wounded, whilst his turret was rendered unserviceable. Nevertheless, Flying Officer Russell continued his mission. Soon afterwards, another fighter attacked. Flight Sergeant Cashman used his guns with deadly effect, however, and drove off the attacker which is believed to have been destroyed. A third fighter was also driven off and Flying Officer Russell afterwards pressed home a successful bombing attack. In trying circumstances this officer and airman displayed courage, skill and resolution of a high order.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

NZ.416582 Flight Sergeant Bernard William WINDSOR, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 514 Squadron.

527589 Sergeant Frank Leonard DOLAMORE, Royal Air Force, No. 514 Squadron.

These airmen were pilot and flight engineer respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Frankfurt one night in March, 1944. Just as Flight Sergeant Windsor commenced his bombing run the aircraft was attacked by a fighter and was struck by a burst of machine gun fire which caused much damage and killed the rear and mid-upper gunners. Flight Sergeant Windsor took prompt evading action but his aircraft was again hit and some stores caught fire. The aircraft was in a steep dive and it took the combined efforts of the pilot and flight engineer to level out. Afterwards, the bombs were released. The aircraft became extremely difficult to control but Flight Sergeant Windsor succeeded in gaining some height and eventually reached base. Throughout the return flight, Sergeant Dolamore displayed much skill and resource and did everything possible to assist his pilot in his endeavours to reach this country. In very trying circumstances these airmen displayed courage, determination and devotion to duty beyond praise.

Can./R.191057 Sergeant Charles McRAE, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 115 Squadron.

This airman was the rear gunner of an aircraft detailed to attack Frankfurt on a recent occasion. Whilst over the target the aircraft was attacked by 3 fighters. The rear turret was rendered unservice-