

crew. Throughout the homeward flight he never spared himself in his endeavours to be of assistance to his captain.

Flying Officer Harry Smith REID (159582), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 144 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Leslie Donald COOPER (169497), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 144 Squadron.

As pilot and navigator respectively these officers have completed very many sorties and have displayed commendable skill and determination throughout. Recently they took part in an attack on enemy shipping off the French coast. Considerable anti-aircraft fire was encountered and Flying Officer Reid's aircraft was struck. Although he was wounded by flying fragments, which caused severe lacerations to one of his arms and minor injuries to his legs, Flying Officer Reid pressed home his attack and afterwards flew the aircraft to base where he effected a safe landing with the undercarriage retracted. He displayed great courage and tenacity. Throughout the sortie, Pilot Officer Cooper displayed great resolution and co-operated splendidly with his pilot to whom he rendered valuable aid. He set a fine example of devotion to duty.

Lieutenant Vernon John ARNOLD (9343V), South African Air Force, No. 12 (S.A.A.F.) Squadron.

In May, 1944, this officer led a formation of aircraft to attack an enemy harbour. The operation was executed with great skill and precision and the success achieved reflects the greatest credit on the efforts of Lieutenant Arnold whose leadership was brilliant. This officer has completed a large number of sorties and has invariably displayed skill, courage and tenacity of a high order.

Pilot Officer Robert Alexander GRAY (Can/J.19799), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 158 Squadron.

As pilot and captain, Pilot Officer Gray has completed a large number of sorties against dangerous and difficult targets. He has invariably displayed a high degree of skill, courage and resolution, qualities which have on more than one occasion enabled him to complete his mission in the face of heavy odds. He is an ideal leader, whose example has been most impressive.

Pilot Officer Ernest Alton LOGAN (Can/J.19067), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 432 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron

This officer has taken part in a large number of sorties, involving attacks on a variety of strongly defended targets. On one occasion he was the mid-upper gunner of an aircraft detailed to attack Magdeburg. When over the target area the aircraft was struck by a burst of machine-gun fire from a fighter. A large hole was torn in the fuselage just below the mid-upper turret and a fire started. Pilot Officer Logan was wounded in the leg and foot but, in spite of his injuries, he promptly stamped on the burning portion and thus put out the flames. He then re-manned his guns as his pilot went on to bomb the target. Pilot Officer Logan has invariably displayed a high degree of courage, determination and zeal.

Warrant Officer Joseph Jean Baptiste Gaston LAPIERRE (Can/R.148486), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 408 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

As air gunner, Warrant Officer Lapierre has completed a large number of sorties, including 9 attacks on Berlin. On one occasion, after successfully bombing the German capital, Warrant Officer Lapierre sighted a fighter closing in. He promptly gave his pilot the necessary evading directions but the bomber was struck by a burst of machine-gun fire. His turret was damaged and he was deprived of the use of the inter-communication system. The lead of his oxygen supply was also severed. Nevertheless, this resolute gunner finally drove off the attacker. Displaying exceptional devotion to duty he manned his post throughout the remainder of the flight despite the lack of oxygen. He set an example of a high order

#### *Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1503804 Flight Sergeant Frank DAY, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 418 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

As observer this airman has taken part in a large number of sorties and has displayed a high degree of ability, determination and devotion to duty. He has assisted in the destruction of at least 3 enemy aircraft in the air and in damaging

attacks on 3 more on the ground. His keenness has always been apparent and has set a praiseworthy example.

958380 Flight Sergeant Raymond William George SULLIVAN, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 419 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Flight Sergeant Sullivan is a cool, resolute and devoted member of aircraft crew. As air gunner he has participated in very many sorties against targets in Germany. On one occasion his turret became unserviceable on the outward flight to Munchen Gladbach. Soon after the target had been attacked the aircraft was engaged by a fighter. Although unable to bring his guns to bear on the attacker, Flight Sergeant Sullivan gave excellent directions to his pilot who evaded the enemy aircraft. Before this country was reached the bomber was intercepted by fighters on 5 more occasions. Though trapped in his turret and deprived of the use of the inter-communication system, Flight Sergeant Sullivan coolly directed his pilot's combat manoeuvres by means of the call light method and, each time, the enemy aircraft were evaded. He displayed skill and courage worthy of the greatest praise.

Can/R.187075 Sergeant Joseph Marcel Albert CROTEAU, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 425 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

As rear gunner, this airman has participated in several sorties, including attacks on such targets as Essen, Frankfurt and Karlsruhe. During the attack on the last named target his aircraft was engaged by a fighter. Sergeant Croteau used his guns with deadly effect, however, and his bullets set the enemy aircraft on fire. It fell to the ground and exploded on impact. His skill and determination were characteristic of that he has shown on all occasions.

1813968 Sergeant Victor Arthur ROE, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 35 Squadron.

One night in May, 1944, this airman was the rear gunner of an aircraft detailed to attack an enemy target. During the operation a fighter was encountered which attacked with much persistence. The rear turret was struck by the enemy's bullets and rendered unserviceable. As a result, Sergeant Roe was covered with oil. Nevertheless, he coolly fought off the attacker which finally caught fire. This airman is a fearless and devoted member of aircraft crew and he has rendered valuable service.

1544372 Sergeant Leslie Eric WESTBROOK, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 218 Squadron.

This airman was the rear gunner of an aircraft detailed to attack Chambley one night in May, 1944. After bombing the target the aircraft was attacked by 2 Junkers 88s. In spite of accurate fire by Sergeant Westbrook the aircraft was repeatedly hit by the enemy's bullets. Much damage was sustained and Sergeant Westbrook and his co-gunner were wounded, whilst a third member of the crew was killed. The aircraft went into a violent sideslip and, as Sergeant Westbrook left his turret, believing the aircraft to be no longer airworthy, he saw a small fire had started. He promptly put out the flames and then became aware of the plight of his wounded comrade to whom he rendered first aid. By now, the pilot had regained control. Although his leg was soaked in blood, Sergeant Westbrook insisted on returning to his turret where he remained until the English coast was crossed. In the face of a trying ordeal, this airman displayed courage, fortitude and devotion to duty beyond praise.

The KING has also been graciously pleased to approve the undermentioned awards in recognition of gallantry displayed in the following circumstances:—

One night in May, 1944, several crews of Mosquito aircraft were detailed for a difficult and dangerous mine-laying mission. The operation called for the highest standard of skill and accuracy. In the face of intense anti-aircraft fire, balloon defences and considerable searchlight activity the attack was pressed home with great precision from low level. That complete success was achieved in spite of such hazards is a high tribute to the calm courage and iron determination shown by the following officers who participated in various capacities as leaders and members of aircraft crew.