

subsequently successfully attacked the convoy. This officer displayed courage and devotion to duty of a high order.

Flying Officer Clayton Edwin Thomas HAMILTON (Can/J.20900), R.C.A.F. 419 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

One night in June, 1944, this officer was the navigator of an aircraft detailed to attack Sterkrade. Before reaching the target the aircraft was attacked by a fighter. Flying Officer Hamilton was wounded in the leg and wrist. In spite of much pain he resolutely continued his duties and, although much of his equipment had been lost he guided his pilot to the target with unerring skill. He displayed great courage and fortitude, setting an excellent example.

Flying Officer James Harold O'NEILL (Can/J.18543), R.C.A.F. 426 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

As captain of aircraft, Flying Officer O'Neill has completed many sorties on his second tour. He has displayed commendable skill and courage and throughout his leadership has been of a high order. On a recent occasion he was detailed to attack the railway sidings at Louvaine. When crossing the enemy coast his aircraft was struck by a shell which tore a large hole in one of the wings. Nevertheless, Flying Officer O'Neill continued to the target, whilst over the area a fighter was encountered. It was finally driven off and, although his aircraft had sustained damage he flew it to an airfield. The hydraulic system had been affected and one wheel had dropped to the down position. In spite of this, Flying Officer O'Neill made a safe landing.

Flying Officer Anthony Edward ROSS (133713), R.A.F.V.R. 603 Sqn.

As observer, this officer has taken part in very many sorties, including a number of attacks on enemy shipping, during which successes have been obtained. He is a gallant and resolute member of aircraft crew and his navigational skill has played a good part in the success of many operations in which he has participated. He has set a most inspiring example.

Flying Officer James Bryan SCOTT (144614), R.A.F.V.R. 454 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Flying Officer Scott is a navigator of high merit. On a recent occasion he took part in a most successful reconnaissance over the Aegean Sea. In spite of poor visibility an enemy convoy was located. Despite opposition by enemy fighters, Flying Officer Scott concentrated on his reconnaissance and obtained full and accurate information which was passed to base in a series of signals. In dangerous and difficult circumstances, this officer displayed great determination and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Earl Leroy VAWTER (Can/J.28256), R.C.A.F. 425 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer was the bomb aimer in an aircraft detailed to attack an enemy target one night in June, 1944. Soon after the bombs had been released, the aircraft was struck by bullets from a fighter and the pilot was wounded. He called for assistance and Flying Officer Vawter, who promptly answered the call, found him slumped over the controls. With the help of another member of the crew, Flying Officer Vawter removed his injured comrade from his seat and took his place. Although untrained for such responsibilities, he took over the controls and flew back to an airfield where, with helpful instructions from the ground, he effected a safe landing at the third attempt. In a most trying situation this officer displayed a high degree of bravery, resourcefulness and determination and was undoubtedly responsible for saving a valuable aircraft and the lives of its crew.

Acting Flying Officer Samuel JOHNS (Aus.425021), R.A.A.F. 467 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

One night in June, 1944, this officer, piloted an aircraft in an operation. On the outward flight the aircraft was attacked by a fighter and, before it could be evaded, sustained serious damage. The rear turret became almost detached and caught fire but the flames were extinguished. Although his aircraft was by now defenceless, Flying Officer Johns continued to the target and executed his attack and afterwards flew the badly damaged aircraft to base. This officer displayed courage and determination characteristic of that he has shown on many occasions.

Lieutenant Robert RICHARDS (205997V), S.A.A.F. 16 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties, including numerous successful attacks on

enemy shipping. In June, 1944, Lieutenant Richards took part in an attack on a convoy consisting of 3 merchantmen and 4 naval vessels. In the engagement, he pressed home his attack with the greatest determination and obtained several hits on one of the merchant vessels which afterwards caught fire. Although his aircraft sustained damage in the fight, Lieutenant Richards flew it safely to base. He displayed skill and bravery of a high standard.

Pilot Officer Desmond Connell HUGHES (177638), R.A.F.V.R., 514 Sqn.

As a flight engineer, Pilot Officer Hughes has participated in very many attacks on a wide range of enemy targets. He has proved himself to be a highly skilled and resolute member of aircraft crew and his exemplary conduct at all times has set a very fine example. In spite of more than one trying experience, Pilot Officer Hughes has displayed the greatest keenness for operations.

Pilot Officer George Harry MARJORAM (173550), R.A.F.V.R., 419 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties and throughout has displayed the highest standard of skill and keenness. On one occasion when nearing his allotted target, the rear turret became unserviceable; the intercommunication system also became useless. This did not deter Pilot Officer Marjoram from continuing to the target which he attacked with his usual determination. On the return flight his aircraft was attacked on six occasions by fighters. By good tactics and close co-operation on the part of his crew Pilot Officer Marjoram outmanoeuvred the attackers and reached base without having sustained any damage. His devotion to duty has been of a high order.

Pilot Officer John David REES (173159), R.A.F.V.R., 100 Sqn.

This officer has completed a second tour of operations and has displayed great skill, keenness and devotion to duty. On a recent occasion when returning from an attack on an enemy target his aircraft was intercepted by a fighter. Whilst taking evading action the bomber turned on its back. The recovery was difficult but Pilot Officer Rees regained control. Considerable height had been lost, whilst both the ailerons had been torn away. In spite of this, Pilot Officer Rees maintained control and flew back to base. His skill and coolness in a difficult situation was undoubtedly responsible for the ultimate safety of the aircraft and its crew.

Pilot Officer Delbert Edward WHITE (Can/J.85721), R.C.A.F., 61 Sqn.

One night in June, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack an enemy target. Early on the outward flight the hydraulic system was affected when an oil leak from the main tank became broken. Repeated attempts to stem the leak were of no avail and the contents of the header tank were lost. The possibility that the engine would be unable to open the bomb doors when required was evident. Nevertheless, Pilot Officer White continued his mission and requested the flight engineer to drain as much oil as possible from the front turret in the meantime. In the run up to the target the quantity of oil thus obtained was poured into the main supply. The ends of the broken feed line were then held firmly together by a bandage and a flow sufficient to enable the bomb doors to be opened. A successful attack was made and afterwards the officer flew back to an airfield and made a safe landing. Pilot Officer White set a fine example of determination and devotion to duty.

Warrant Officer Wilfred Gordon COOKE (Can/R.52693), R.C.A.F., 408 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Warrant Officer Cooke has completed a large number of sorties against a variety of strongly defended targets. He is a splendid captain and pilot whose determination to complete his missions successfully has been most praiseworthy.

Warrant Officer, Second Class, Paul Emile BOURASSA (Can/R.136575), R.C.A.F., 419 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Warrant Officer Bourassa has participated in many sorties and has proved himself to be a determined and dependable member of aircraft crew. He has at all times shown the greatest keenness and his example of courage and devotion to duty has been worthy of great praise.