

notable gunnery skill have made him a most valuable member of aircraft crew.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Vernon Arnold LANCASTER (Aus.409149), R.A.A.F., 453 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has displayed great keenness to engage the enemy. He has taken part in a large number of sorties, including attacks on such targets as railway objectives, radio installations and enemy positions in Northern France, Belgium and Holland. In June, 1944, Flight Lieutenant Lancaster took part in an engagement against 6 enemy fighters over the battle area of Normandy. Although wounded in the head this officer fought with great tenacity and assisted in the destruction of one of the enemy force. He has destroyed 3 hostile aircraft.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Stanley Arthur WINDMILL (174076), R.A.F.V.R., 158 Sqn.

One night in June, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Trappes. During the operation the aircraft was attacked by a fighter at close range. By a clever manoeuvre, Flight Lieutenant Windmill evaded the attacker but, a short time afterwards the enemy aircraft again came in. Once again Flight Lieutenant Windmill responded well to the directions of his gunners and obtained a position from which they delivered effective fire and shot the enemy aircraft down. In this spirited action, Flight Lieutenant Windmill displayed great skill, coolness and co-operation. He has participated in a large number of sorties during which he has attacked a wide range of targets.

Flying Officer Robert Lyle James BARBOUR (125456), R.A.F.V.R., 264 Sqn.

Flying Officer George PAINE (129167), R.A.F.V.R., 264 Sqn.

These officers have completed very many sorties as pilot and observer respectively. They have displayed great skill and co-operation and have destroyed 3 enemy aircraft at night. Their keenness and devotion to duty have been most commendable.

Flying Officer Peter de Leighton BROOKE (127949), 264 Sqn.

This officer has displayed exceptional keenness to engage the enemy. He has destroyed 2 enemy aircraft both of which he shot down one night in June, 1944, over the allied beachhead in Normandy; he has also destroyed a number of flying bombs.

Flying Officer James Douglas COOPER (79411), R.A.F.V.R., 158 Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties involving attacks on a wide variety of targets. Throughout he has displayed exceptional keenness and a fine fighting spirit and his accurate bomb aiming has contributed materially to the successes obtained. His example has been most inspiring.

Flying Officer Leonard EVANS (144330), R.A.F.V.R., 578 Sqn.

Flying Officer Evans has taken part in attacks on a wide range of well defended enemy targets. Throughout he has displayed the highest standard of determination and his navigational ability has contributed materially to the successes obtained. On a recent occasion, Flying Officer Evans took part in an attack. During the operation the aircraft was hit by fire from the ground defences. The air bomber's compartment was damaged and its occupant was wounded. After rendering first aid to his comrade, Flying Officer Evans guided his pilot unerringly to the target where he manipulated the bomb sight and released the bombs himself. He has invariably displayed commendable courage and resource.

Flying Officer Ralph Edward JONES (151862), R.A.F.V.R., 455 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has participated in numerous sorties, including several successful attacks on enemy shipping. He is a gallant and devoted member of aircraft crew, whose navigational ability has contributed in good measure to the successes obtained. His keenness, thoroughness and appreciation of the responsibilities entrusted to him have set a very fine example.

Flying Officer Allan Robert OSMENT (N.Z.539054), R.N.Z.A.F., 489 (N.Z.) Sqn.

In July, 1944, this officer took part in an air attack on a large enemy convoy. In the fight, Flying Officer Osment heavily attacked a medium

sized merchant vessel; he also attacked 2 smaller vessels with cannon fire. Throughout he displayed skill and resolution of a high order. This officer has taken part in very many sorties, including several attacks on shipping.

Flying Officer William Gerald PHELAN (Can/J.27718), R.C.A.F., 425 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed many sorties and has displayed exceptional skill and determination, qualities which were well in evidence when detailed for an attack one evening in July, 1944. Early on the outward flight one of the engines became defective and had to be put out of action. In spite of this, Flying Officer Phelan was determined to complete the mission for which he had been detailed. Owing to loss of air speed he knew that to follow the prescribed route would mean a late arrival over the target. He therefore altered course and, by the most direct route, went on to the target and executed a successful attack. On the return flight he skilfully controlled the use of the engines to conserve the petrol supply which had become much reduced and finally reached base. This officer has at all times displayed the highest standard of devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Matthew Francis SOUTHGATE (151833), R.A.F.V.R., 455 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has taken part in many sorties, and has displayed skill and devotion to duty throughout. In July, 1944, he was the navigator of one of a large formation of aircraft which attacked a big enemy convoy. The attack was pressed home with great determination and Flying Officer Southgate rendered valuable service in the co-ordination of a most successful attack. He is a highly skilled and courageous member of aircraft crew.

Flying Officer Fred Leon ROWE (Can/J.16034), R.C.A.F., 434 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Flying Officer Rowe has completed two tours of operational duty during which he has taken part in very many attacks on targets in Germany. Throughout he has displayed a high standard of navigational ability, combined with great determination and devotion to duty. On one occasion his pilot was temporarily blinded by particles of glass from the shattered windscreen. On reaching an airfield in this country, Flying Officer Rowe proved his resource by assisting another member of the crew to make a safe landing. This officer is a most valuable member of aircraft crew.

Pilot Officer Elliot Gilbert AVERY (177072), R.A.F.V.R., 158 Sqn.

This officer has completed very many sorties in the role of wireless operator and has invariably displayed initiative, skill and courage. On one occasion he was a member of a crew detailed to attack Stuttgart. On the outward journey some important navigational equipment became unserviceable. The pilot was determined to go on to the target, however, and the subsequent good work by Pilot Officer Avery played a good part in the ultimate success achieved.

Pilot Officer Glen Alvin BASSETT (Can/J.86138), R.C.A.F., 428 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer, as rear gunner, has participated in many sorties against objectives in Germany and France; he has also completed numerous mine-laying operations. On several occasions his vigilance and skilful evading directions have enabled his pilot to frustrate enemy fighters. His excellent work has contributed materially to the successes achieved.

Pilot Officer Ronald Victor CLARKSON (Aus.417805), R.A.A.F., 158 Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties as air gunner, against a wide variety of targets. On several occasions he has been involved in engagements against enemy fighters but he has defended his aircraft with much skill and determination and his efforts have contributed materially to the successes obtained. He has proved himself to be a most valiant member of aircraft crew.

Pilot Officer Reginald Samuel CRIPPS (178148), R.A.F.V.R., 158 Sqn.

As air gunner, this officer has participated in a large number of sorties, many of them involving attacks on targets in Normandy. He is a cool, confident and vigilant member of aircraft crew, whose fine fighting qualities have set a fine example. On a recent occasion, he took part in