

attacks to a successful conclusion. His calm efficiency and unfailing devotion to duty are worthy of the highest praise.

Acting Squadron Leader Henry TILSON, D.F.C. (Can/J 7343), R.C.A.F., 622 Sqn.

Since the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross, Squadron Leader Tilson has completed many sorties. On one occasion he was detailed to attack Stuttgart. On the outward flight, when a number of miles away from his objective, an engine became unserviceable. Considerable height was lost but Squadron Leader Tilson continued his mission, flying through a heavy barrage of anti-aircraft fire. After leaving the target, a course was set for base at a low altitude and eventually a successful landing was made. This officer has invariably displayed courage and devotion to duty and has proved himself an exceptional leader.

Acting Squadron Leader David John WILLIAMS, D.F.C. (Can/J.6991), R.C.A.F., 406 Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties, including a number during which he has successfully attacked a variety of targets on the ground. In the air he has destroyed 5 enemy aircraft at night. He is a brave and resourceful pilot whose fine fighting qualities were well illustrated one night in July, 1944, when he destroyed 2 enemy aircraft in one sortie. In the fighting his own aircraft sustained damage but he flew it safely to base in the face of extremely adverse weather. This officer is a most efficient and inspiring flight commander.

Flight Lieutenant Bernhorst Hermanus BOTHA, D.F.C. (155758), R.A.F.V.R., 50 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Botha has a notable record of operations. He has completed a very large number of sorties, both as an air gunner and pilot, against many heavily defended targets in Germany. He has at all times displayed great determination and courage in pressing home his attacks and has undoubtedly assisted in maintaining the high standard of morale in his squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Bernard William CLAYTON, D.F.C., C.G.M. (143380), R.A.F.V.R., 617 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Clayton has completed a large number of sorties as captain of aircraft. Throughout, he has displayed courage, devotion to duty and gallantry of a very high order. His successes have been proved by the many excellent photographs he has obtained.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Richard Stansfield Derek KEARNS, D.F.C., D.F.M. (N.Z.405572), R.N.Z.A.F., 617 Sqn.

Throughout a long tour of operational duty Flight Lieutenant Kearns has displayed exceptional determination and courage. Since the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross he has completed very many sorties against heavily defended objectives in Germany. His consistent good work has resulted in much damage to the enemy and his skill and leadership have been an inspiration to all.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Squadron Leader Norman Arthur KYNASTON, D.F.C. (89810), R.A.F.V.R., 91 Sqn.

Squadron Leader Kynaston has been in command of his squadron since August, 1943. He has completed a large number of sorties and his excellent leadership and fine fighting spirit have contributed in no small way to the exceptional record of his squadron. He has destroyed 17 flying bombs.

Acting Squadron Leader William Anderson DOUGLAS, D.F.C. (90896), A.A.F., 611 Sqn.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties, including numerous attacks on enemy shipping. In recent air operations, Squadron Leader Douglas has led the squadron in many sorties over the Normandy beaches. On one occasion he attacked a Junkers 88. Although his gun sight was faulty, Squadron Leader Douglas pressed home his attack from close range. His bullets struck the enemy aircraft which exploded in the air. Although his own aircraft was damaged by flying debris, Squadron Leader Douglas flew safely to base. His devotion to duty has been unfailing.

Acting Squadron Leader Robin John McNAIR, D.F.C. (112522), R.A.F.V.R., 247 Sqn.

Since the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross, Squadron Leader McNair has completed very many sorties, involving attacks on a wide

range of targets. In July, 1944, while leading his squadron on an armed reconnaissance over Northern France, his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. A few minutes later the engine became useless. Displaying great coolness and skill, Squadron Leader McNair glided his aircraft over the enemy lines amidst a barrage of fire from the enemy's ground defences and completed a successful landing in a field. This officer has at all times shown courage, tenacity and skill in attacking the enemy. His keenness and fine leadership have been responsible for the high morale of his squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Christopher David NORTH-LEWIS, D.F.C. (45073), R.A.F., 181 Sqn.

As squadron commander, this officer has at all times led his squadron with great coolness, courage and tenacity. During August, 1944, when on an armed reconnaissance over an area in Northern France, he sighted an enemy tank force and immediately led his squadron in to the attack. His aircraft was repeatedly hit by anti-aircraft fire. Undeterred, Squadron Leader North-Lewis pressed home his attack with skill and determination. His splendid example and leadership are an inspiration to all in his squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Geoffrey Harry BRIGGS (45270), R.A.F., 298 Sqn.

This officer has completed many sorties. He is a most keen and efficient pilot, whose fearlessness and persistence have won him many successes. He is a fine leader and his example has greatly inspired the flight he commands.

Acting Squadron Leader William Henry IRESON (85945), R.A.F.V.R., 130 Sqn.

Squadron Leader Ireson has taken part in a very large number of sorties, many of them involving attacks on dangerous and difficult targets. He has displayed great skill and courage and throughout his devotion to duty has been unfailing. Within recent weeks he has taken part in many sorties over the Normandy beaches and convoy areas and his leadership has been masterly.

Acting Squadron Leader Louis Frank MIDDLETON (82729), R.A.F.V.R., 230 Sqn.

This officer commanded a formation of flying boats assigned to the duty of evacuating urgent casualties from the forward area in Central Burma. The operation was undertaken in bad weather and necessitated flying over difficult country. The lake from which the evacuations were made lay at the foot of surrounding hills infested by the enemy and was within range of small arms fire. Nevertheless, the operation was successfully completed. By his skilful and gallant leadership, Squadron Leader Middleton, who undertook many sorties during the operation, contributed in a large measure to the result achieved.

Acting Squadron Leader Albert Lloyd WIGGINS Aus.(407541), R.A.A.F., 455 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has participated in numerous sorties, including several successful attacks on enemy shipping. In July, 1944, Squadron Leader Wiggins flew the leading aircraft of a formation which attacked a convoy of 10 enemy ships. In spite of considerable anti-aircraft fire the attack was well pressed home. A merchantman was hit and several other vessels were set on fire. By his gallant and skilful leadership, Squadron Leader Wiggins played a prominent part in the success of a well executed operation.

Flight Lieutenant Ypres Robert William LOVEGROVE (47640), R.A.F., 299 Sqn.

This officer has participated in a large number of varied sorties. He is an extremely capable navigator and not once has he failed to guide his pilot to the target. He has at all times displayed great coolness and good judgment and his efforts have contributed materially to the success achieved.

Flight Lieutenant John RAND (118181), R.A.F.V.R., 230 Sqn.

Flying Officer Vernon Noel VERNEY (Aus.405891), R.A.A.F., 230 Sqn.

These officers were pilot and navigator respectively of a flying boat in which they undertook numerous flights to evacuate personnel from a zone of operations in Northern Burma. Extremely adverse weather prevailed throughout. Their course took them over difficult terrain. Flight Lieutenant Rand and Flying Officer Verney proved