

Acting Wing Commander John Roy Hugh MERIFIELD, D.S.O., D.F.C. (74337), R.A.F.V.R., 540 Sqn.

Since the invasion of Northern France the squadron has completed many sorties against enemy communication systems and military installations. Much success has been achieved in which Wing Commander Merifield has played a leading part. He planned the missions, advised of the tactics to be adopted and invariably undertook the more dangerous tasks himself. On 2 of these his brilliant work was well proved by the perfection of the photographs which he secured.

Acting Wing Commander Donald Wilfred STEVENTON, D.S.O., D.F.C. (33477), R.A.F., 544 Sqn.

This officer is in command of the squadron to which many missions have been assigned since the invasion of Northern France. In the planning and execution of these operations, Wing Commander Steventon has displayed outstanding skill and tactical ability and much of the success achieved can be attributed to his sterling work. On 2 occasions, Wing Commander Steventon successfully completed sorties which demanded the highest standard of skill and courage. The photographs which he secured were a splendid testimony to his outstanding efforts.

Acting Squadron Leader John Russell COLLINS, D.F.C. (124617), R.A.F.V.R., 245 Sqn.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross this officer has undertaken many sorties on which the enemy has been greatly harassed and many of his transport and armoured vehicles have been destroyed. He is a brave and resolute fighter and has set a fine example to all.

Acting Squadron Leader Hugh Charles TRAINOR, D.F.C. (Can/C.1697), R.C.A.F., 401 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

On many occasions recently, Squadron Leader Trainor has led the squadron on a variety of sorties and has displayed excellent tactical ability and great resolution. On one occasion a very superior number of enemy fighters were engaged and 8 of them were shot down, one of them by Squadron Leader Trainor who displayed great skill and determination throughout the fight. This officer has shot down at least 9 enemy aircraft.

Flight Lieutenant Arthur Desmond DOBSON, D.F.C. (108026), R.A.F.V.R., 76 Sqn.

This officer has an excellent operational record. He is a navigator of high merit and has participated in a large number of sorties against the most heavily defended objectives. The success of many of these sorties have been largely due to Flight Lieutenant Dobson's undoubted skill and accuracy. He has also been responsible for the organising of a flight navigation section and the training of all new crews, a task which he has executed brilliantly. His devotion to duty has been unflinching.

Flight Lieutenant Peter Francis Locker HALL, D.F.C. (N.Z.413841), R.N.Z.A.F., 488 (N.Z.) Sqn.

Flying Officer Richard D'Arcy MARRIOTT, D.F.C. (141337), R.A.F.V.R., 488 (N.Z.) Sqn.

As pilot and observer respectively these officers continue to display the highest standard of skill and gallantry. Recently, within a short period they have destroyed 4 enemy aircraft, bringing their victories to 8.

Flight Lieutenant Francis Richard Lee MELLERSH, D.F.C. (105145), R.A.F.V.R., 96 Sqn.

This officer has proved himself to be a night fighter pilot of outstanding ability and determination and his skill and keenness have set an excellent example. Flight Lieutenant Mellersh has completed many sorties and has destroyed eight enemy aircraft; he has also destroyed a large number of flying bombs.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Laurence William Fraser STARK, D.F.C. (148445), R.A.F.V.R., 263 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Stark has completed a large number of sorties. He has led his flight against many difficult and dangerous targets and despite heavy enemy opposition he has always pressed home his attacks to a successful conclusion. His excellent leadership, courage and fine fighting spirit have set a splendid example to all.

Flying Officer Wilfred Handel MILLER, D.F.C. (169022), R.A.F.V.R., 169 Sqn.

Flying Officer Frederick Charles BONE, D.F.C. (169501), R.A.F.V.R., 169 Sqn.

These officers, as pilot and observer respectively, have completed many sorties. They have displayed a high degree of skill and co-operation, and their keenness to engage the enemy has been most evident. They have destroyed 10 hostile aircraft.

Flying Officer Gerald Norman Edgar YEATES, D.F.C. (128485), R.A.F.V.R., 248 Sqn.

Within recent months this officer has completed many reconnaissances and has participated in numerous successful attacks on enemy shipping. He is a gallant and tenacious fighter and has set a fine example in pressing home his attacks in the face of heavy opposing fire. In August, 1944, Flying Officer Yeates attacked a medium sized merchantman, inflicting much damage. Afterwards he attacked 2 anti-aircraft gun positions on the mainland.

#### *Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Wing Commander Herbert York HUMPHREYS (33003), R.A.F., 57 Sqn.

In August, 1944, this officer piloted one of a formation of bombers detailed to attack a flying bomb site in Northern France. Before reaching the target heavy cloud was encountered. On flying clear, Wing Commander Humphreys had become separated from the formation but he went on to the target and executed his attack. Soon afterwards the bomber was attacked by an enemy fighter. For 45 minutes a running fight ensued. Although his aircraft was hit many times and sustained much damage, Wing Commander Humphreys manoeuvred with skill, whilst his gunners prevented the attacker from closing in. The enemy aircraft was finally driven off and Wing Commander Humphreys afterwards flew his damaged aircraft to base. This officer has completed very many sorties and has invariably displayed a high degree of courage and resolution.

Squadron Leader Russell BANNOCK (Can/C.1086), R.C.A.F., 418 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed numerous sorties, including several attacks on enemy airfields on which he has caused much disruption. He is a highly efficient flight commander and has shown much skill and initiative in the planning and execution of his missions. His successes include the destruction of many flying bombs, 3 of which he destroyed in one patrol.

Squadron Leader Richard Neil CHUDLEIGH (39712), R.A.F.O., 96 Sqn.

This officer has displayed a high standard of courage and devotion to duty. He is a resolute and skilful fighter and has destroyed two enemy aircraft at night; he has also destroyed many flying bombs, six of them in one night.

Acting Squadron Leader George Frederick ARBUCKLE (Can/J.23445), R.C.A.F., 429 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has at all times displayed a high degree of skill and determination. He has completed many sorties including attacks on Berlin, Leipzig, Frankfurt and other heavily defended targets. On one occasion on the bombing run, his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. One engine was put out of action but Squadron Leader Arbuckle continued the bombing run and successfully attacked the target. This officer is a very capable flight commander whose excellent leadership is largely responsible for the efficiency of the squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Mathew Garry BARNETT (N.Z.391338), R.N.Z.A.F., 501 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Richard Frank Wharton CLEAVER, D.S.O. (124411), R.A.F.V.R.

In air operations these officers have displayed skill, courage and devotion to duty of the highest order.

Acting Squadron Leader Philip Barber CLAY (105193), R.A.F.V.R., 514 Sqn.

As captain and pilot this officer has completed a large number of sorties, involving attacks on a variety of targets both at night and by day. On one occasion, when detailed to attack the railway sidings at Challons-Sur-Marne, the air speed indicators in his aircraft became unserviceable soon after taking off. Despite this Squadron Leader Clay continued to the target. Before the objective was reached, one of the starboard engines caught fire and the propeller had to be feathered.