

Acting Squadron Leader William Corbett VANEXAN, D.F.C. (Can/J.15603), R.C.A.F., 431 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and has displayed outstanding determination and zeal. He has attacked his targets fearlessly, yet with cool and calculated method which has brought him much success. He is a virile leader and has proved a great asset to the squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Robert Gordon DALE, D.F.C. (Can/J.15042), R.C.A.F.

As observer, Flight Lieutenant Dale has completed a very large number of sorties, including many reconnaissances over areas in Germany. His ability has been of the highest standard and his services have been of great value. Many times his aircraft has been intercepted by enemy fighters and many times fired upon by the ground defences but he has shown a coolness and determination to complete his assignments successfully which has won great praise. In addition to his work in the air, Flight Lieutenant Dale has devoted much of his skill towards the training of other members of his unit.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Gerald John SOUTH, D.F.C. (143664), R.A.F.V.R., 7 Sqn.

A first class captain and a most conscientious officer, Flight Lieutenant South has been engaged in air operations almost continuously for a year. He has led attacks on a wide variety of targets including Berlin, Nuremberg, Hanover, Munich, Stuttgart, Kiel and Augsburg and has always pressed home his attacks with the utmost determination. His example when over these dangerous targets has proved a rare source of inspiration.

*Distinguished Service Order.*

Acting Squadron Leader Allan John Laird CRAIG, D.F.C. (103561), R.A.F.V.R., 7 Sqn.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Warrant Officer John Edward DAVIDSON (574706), R.A.F., 7 Sqn.

In September, 1944, Squadron Leader Craig and Warrant Officer Davidson were pilot and flight engineer respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack an enemy airfield. Whilst over the target the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. The starboard fuel system was damaged, causing a serious leakage of petrol. Despite this, Squadron Leader Craig pressed home his attack. The two starboard engines were now useless. Nevertheless, this pilot set course for home. The enemy coast was safely crossed but, whilst over the sea, height was gradually being lost. All movable equipment was jettisoned to assist in maintaining height and finally a landing was made at the nearest airfield. Throughout the return flight, Warrant Officer Davidson well proved his engineering skill and his efforts were of immense value to his captain. In perilous circumstances these members of aircraft crew displayed the highest standard of coolness, courage and determination. Squadron Leader Craig has completed a very large number of sorties and has proved himself to be an inspiring leader; Warrant Officer Davidson has also participated in many bombing missions and has always displayed the greatest keenness and devotion to duty.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Gilbert CAMPBELL, D.F.C. (46638), R.A.F., 226 Sqn.

Squadron Leader Campbell has completed many sorties against a variety of targets by day and night. In August, 1944, he was detailed for an operation against a ferry at Duclair. Despite heavy anti-aircraft fire the attack was pressed home with good results. Shortly after the bombs had fallen the aircraft was struck. It immediately became almost uncontrollable and height was lost rapidly. Petrol poured from the pierced tanks and the starboard engine caught fire. The situation seemed hopeless. Coolly and skilfully, however, Squadron Leader Campbell effected a crash-landing. As the aircraft touched down it burst into flames. All the crew, with the exception of the top gunner had got clear. Without hesitation, Squadron Leader Campbell entered the wreckage in order to release his comrade. Unfortunately he had succumbed. This brave pilot displayed conduct in keeping with the best traditions of the Royal Air Force.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Wing Commander John Dudley NELSON (33092), R.A.F., 12 Sqn

Wing Commander Nelson is a most efficient squadron commander, whose excellent organising ability and good judgment have contributed in a large way to the fine fighting qualities of the formation he commands. He has completed many sorties, during which he has attacked a variety of targets important to the enemy's war effort, including Stuttgart, Cologne and Frankfurt. His devotion to duty has been unswerving.

Squadron Leader Frederic John Alliston CHASE (72283), R.A.F.V.R., No. 264 Sqn.

Flying Officer Alexander Frederick WATSON (146285), R.A.F.V.R., No. 264 Sqn.

These officers participated in many operational sorties as pilot and observer respectively and have destroyed four enemy aircraft. They have displayed exceptional skill and throughout their determination and devotion to duty have set a splendid example.

Acting Squadron Leader John Rife BEIRNES (Can/C.13458), No. 438 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

In July, 1944, Squadron Leader Beirnes led a formation of aircraft in an attack on a vital railway bridge over the river Orne just south of Caen. In spite of intense anti-aircraft fire and much low cloud the attack was pressed home and the bridge destroyed. In this well executed operation, Squadron Leader Beirnes displayed a high degree of skill, courage and leadership. In August, 1944, this officer again proved his skill when leading a formation in an attack against enemy mortar positions near the Forest of Grimbosq.

Acting Squadron Leader John Danforth BROWNE (Can/J.9068), R.C.A.F., No. 442 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has displayed a high standard of skill and courage in operations against the enemy. He is an excellent leader and his resolute work has played a good part in the success of the squadron. His example has been most inspiring.

Acting Squadron Leader John Franklin EASTON (Can/J.9549), R.C.A.F., 408 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties, many of them against objectives deep in German territory. He has on all occasions pressed home his attacks with great determination, obtaining many valuable photographs. On two of his sorties his aircraft was severely damaged by enemy fighters, but each time he has completed his mission and brought the crippled bomber back to base. The cheerful and inspiring leadership of Squadron Leader Easton has been a great asset to his squadron.

Major Walter Power STANFORD (202929 V), S.A.A.F., No. 7 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

In August, 1944, Major Stanford led a small formation of aircraft against a convoy of enemy transport located in a heavily defended area. In the face of intense anti-aircraft fire, the attack was executed with great skill and determination, causing much destruction. Major Stanford has consistently led his squadron with much courage.

Flight Lieutenant Ian Clement CAMPBELL (116906), R.A.F.V.R., 55 Sqn.

In air operations Flight Lieutenant Campbell has displayed skill, courage and devotion to duty of the highest order.

Flight Lieutenant Roy Moncrieff CARR (100079), R.A.F.V.R., No. 25 Sqn.

This officer has completed many sorties on his second tour of operational duty. He has displayed a high standard of efficiency and determination and throughout his devotion to duty has been untiring. Flight Lieutenant Carr has destroyed 2 enemy aircraft at night.

Flight Lieutenant Kenneth James Fiset (Can/J.9078), R.C.A.F., No. 439 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Fiset has completed many sorties, involving attacks on a wide range of targets. In July, 1944, he led the squadron in a successful attack on a concentration of enemy forces massing for a counter attack in a wood near Tilly. The operation was executed during the most adverse weather in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire. A few days later Flight Lieutenant Fiset again led his squadron in a similar type of sortie with great success. Flight Lieutenant Fiset has displayed outstanding powers of leadership, courage and skill.