

Officer Tapp and he was seriously wounded. One foot was severed and the other one was badly hurt. Two members of the crew quickly attended to their comrade and rendered him all possible medical aid. The captain afterwards gave the order to release bombs. The release mechanism had become defective and they had to be dropped manually. Badly injured but fully composed, Flying Officer Tapp directed the task, displaying courage, fortitude and discipline which, in a most trying situation, greatly inspired his comrades. Flying Officer Tapp had completed many sorties and his unflinching devotion to duty was evident to all.

Flying Officer David WHISHAW (Aus.408290), R.A.A.F., 455 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

In September, 1944, this pilot took part in an attack on shipping in the heavily defended harbour of Den Helder. In spite of concentrated heavy and light anti-aircraft fire he pressed home a devastating attack from very close range. He has participated in many operations and has proved himself a gallant and skilful pilot who can always be relied upon to put up an excellent show.

Captain Johannes Hendrik CONRADIE (205987 V), S.A.A.F., 253 Sqn.

Captain Conradie has shown great ability and resource in leading his section in attacks against heavily defended targets. During May, 1944, Captain Conradie participated in attacks on Bihac airfield where the enemy had concentrated many aircraft. Captain Conradie personally obtained hits on several Junkers 87s and inflicted heavy casualties on aerodrome gun crews and personnel. He has also successfully attacked enemy mechanical vehicles, locomotives and shipping. He has invariably displayed a high degree of courage.

Captain Salomon PIENAIR (102855 V), S.A.A.F., 60 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Lieutenant Archer RONALD LOCKHART-ROSS (542717 V), S.A.A.F., 60 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

In August, 1944, these officers were pilot and navigator of an aircraft detailed to reconnoitre enemy airfields in Germany. The task was nearing completion when the aircraft was attacked by a fighter. Early in the fight much damage was sustained and the aircraft went into a spin. Much height was lost before Captain Pienair regained control. The fighter attacked with great persistence but Lieutenant Lockhart-Ross gave excellent directions to his pilot who manoeuvred with great skill to avoid further damage. The enemy aircraft was finally evaded and Captain Pienair flew safely to base and effected a landing with the under-carriage retracted. These officers displayed exceptional skill, coolness and determination in most harassing circumstances.

Pilot Officer Sidney FREEDEN (177404), R.A.F.V.R., 156 Sqn.

Pilot Officer Freeden has participated in a large number of sorties as air gunner, many of which have been against heavily defended targets in Germany. His constant vigilance has brought his aircraft and crew through many encounters with enemy aircraft. One night in August, 1944, after a successful attack against Kiel, his aircraft was attacked by an enemy fighter. An engine was put out of action, the rear turret damaged and the fuselage holed in many places. The enemy was subsequently claimed as destroyed by Pilot Officer Freeden and his co-gunner. Soon after crossing the enemy coast on the homeward course, another engine became unserviceable and the aircraft finally had to come down on to the water and the crew took to the dinghy. Some hours later they were sighted by one of our bombers and during the next day, two airborne lifeboats and a dinghy were dropped to them. Owing to the heavy seas these were difficult to reach and Pilot Officer Freeden persuaded his captain to tie a length of rope around himself and he jumped overboard in an effort to reach the dinghy. The rope proved too short however and he had to be pulled back. They were finally picked up some days later. Pilot Officer Freeden maintained a high standard of courage and cheerfulness and was of great assistance to his captain in maintaining the morale of the crew.

*Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (Flying).*

1555102 Flight Sergeant Stuart Somerville CAMPBELL, R.A.F.V.R., 39 Sqn.

This airman has proved himself to be a valiant and devoted member of aircraft crew. He has

participated in many sorties, including numerous attacks on enemy shipping and throughout has displayed a high standard of navigational ability. In June, 1944, when over a target in Northern Italy, his aircraft was struck by fragments of shell which started a fire. Flight Sergeant Campbell was wounded but, despite this, he succeeded in extinguishing the outburst. He afterwards navigated the aircraft home in the face of great difficulty. Towards the end of July, 1944, this airman was again a member of a crew detailed for an air operation. During the mission his aircraft was damaged by anti-aircraft fire. A fire started but he extinguished it. Although deprived of the full use of navigational aids he guided his pilot safely home. This airman has displayed a high degree of courage and resolution.

1571712 Flight Sergeant Robert HARTLEY, R.A.F.V.R., 9 Sqn.

As air gunner this airman has taken part in a large number of sorties against many heavily defended targets in Germany. His accuracy, vigilance and determination have been of the highest order and his devotion to duty unflinching.

Can/R.165426 Flight Sergeant Robert Burton MAXWELL, R.C.A.F., 428 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

In August, 1944, Flight Sergeant Maxwell was detailed to attack a target in Germany. When nearing the objective, his aircraft was struck by anti-aircraft fire, disabling an engine and damaging the electrical system. Despite loss of height and a wound in his leg, this airman pressed on to the target where the bombs had to be released manually. Flight Sergeant Maxwell then flew his aircraft back to England and effected a safe landing. His coolness, courage and determination to achieve success have been of a high order.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

658402 Flight Sergeant Vincent Joseph KYRKE-SMITH, R.A.F., 39 Sqn.

Flight Sergeant Kyrke-Smith executed numerous sorties with great skill. In attacks on enemy shipping he has inflicted damage on 3 small merchantmen. On other occasions he has attacked various targets and has caused damage to several locomotives, railway trucks and oil wagons. These successes reflect great credit on the efforts of Flight Sergeant Kyrke-Smith whose gallantry has been of a high standard.

Aus.426853 Flight Sergeant (now Pilot Officer) Clement Joseph Stephen POTTER, 115 Sqn.

In August, 1944, Flight Sergeant Potter was detailed as pilot and captain of aircraft to attack Stettin. Over the target the aircraft was illuminated in the searchlights and was hit by anti-aircraft fire. Flight Sergeant Potter was wounded in the leg. For some 20 minutes the aircraft was illuminated in the searchlight cone. By skilful manoeuvring, Flight Sergeant Potter avoided the fire directed at him. Considerable height was lost. Nevertheless, this pilot pressed home his attack with resolution. He afterwards flew his damaged aircraft to base and landed it safely. This airman is a most resolute and courageous captain.

Can/R.193787 Flight Sergeant Charles Hopkins STEWART, R.C.A.F., 619 Sqn.

Flight Sergeant Stewart has participated in many operations as air gunner. One night in July, 1944, he was taking part in an attack on Stuttgart. When nearing the target he noticed an enemy aircraft flying in the bomber formation. Displaying great coolness and presence of mind, Flight Sergeant Stewart gave his captain clear directions thus enabling him to open fire on the enemy aircraft. So accurate was his shooting that the enemy aircraft dived to the ground out of control, and was destroyed. This airman has at all times displayed great determination and a fine fighting spirit. He has set an excellent example.

1444455 Flight Sergeant Arthur John TOFT, R.A.F.V.R., 148 Sqn.

Flight Sergeant Toft has completed many operational sorties and has shown himself to be a determined and skilful captain of aircraft. One night in August, 1944, Flight Sergeant Toft successfully completed a difficult sortie. His determined and skilful work in the face of considerable anti-aircraft opposition was worthy of the greatest praise. This airman has completed very many missions and has displayed a high standard of skill throughout.