

down, dived into a wood and burst into flames. This incident is characteristic of the skill and determination consistently displayed by this officer.

Flight Lieutenant Raymond Vincent HEARN, D.F.C. (102547), R.A.F.V.R., 112 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Hearn has completed very many sorties since the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross. He continues to display outstanding skill and daring setting a magnificent example to all who fly with him. In September, during an armed reconnaissance near Pirano, Flight Lieutenant Hearn attacked and destroyed a medium sized enemy vessel. The same day, in the Verona area, despite intense anti-aircraft fire, he led his flight so successfully that they destroyed three S.M.79's on the ground and damaged five others. With only one of his guns in action, Flight Lieutenant Hearn, in aerial combat, destroyed a J.U.88. The next day under the inspiring leadership of this intrepid flight commander his squadron added to their successes by the destruction of six locomotives and twenty loaded railway coaches.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Squadron Leader John Chester BUTTON (109664), R.A.F.V.R., 193 Sqn.

This officer leads a squadron which has achieved many conspicuous successes. Before the landings in Normandy he participated in attacks on heavily defended Radar stations, the elimination of which was vital to the success of the landings. Since then he has led many attacks on ground targets, including ammunition dumps, enemy Headquarters, bridges and transport. His brilliant leadership and selfless devotion to duty have been an inspiration to all members of the squadron he commands.

Squadron Leader David Caldwell PRITCHARD (39020), R.A.F.O., 143 Sqn.

In September, 1944, Squadron Leader Pritchard was leading his section in an attack on shipping in Den Helder. At the commencement of the attack Squadron Leader Pritchard's aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. The starboard engine burst into flames but, undeterred he pressed home his attack to point blank range. After completing his task, Squadron Leader Pritchard extinguished the fire and returned to base where he made a perfect landing. Inspection of the aircraft revealed extensive damage. Squadron Leader Pritchard displayed exceptional coolness, courage and airmanship.

Acting Squadron Leader David Lester BROWN (108985), R.A.F.V.R., 98 Sqn.

This officer has set an example of courage and resolution. He has participated in a large number of sorties, many of which have been attacks on targets in the battle area since the landing in Northern France. He is a most efficient flight commander whose forceful leadership, strong sense of duty and tenacity have proved most inspiring.

Acting Squadron Leader William Edmund EAGLETON (Aus.403727), R.A.A.F., 466 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

One night in August, 1943, Squadron Leader Eagleton was detailed for a mine laying operation off Brest. Extremely adverse weather prevailed and in order to identify his target, this courageous pilot descended to almost sea level. Intense anti-aircraft fire was encountered. Despite this, Squadron Leader Eagleton identified his target and successfully laid his mines, returning to base with an undamaged aircraft. Squadron Leader Eagleton has at all times shown the highest degree of courage and devotion to duty which has been a fine example to his squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Francis Stanislaus GONSALVES (86378), R.A.F.V.R., 85 Sqn.

This officer has operated with considerable success with bomber and fighter aircraft. On one occasion, while patrolling an enemy airfield, he attacked two Messerschmitt 110's, destroyed one and damaged the other. In September, 1944, he was detailed to attack a certain objective. On reaching the target the port engine failed. Height was rapidly lost but Squadron Leader Gonsalves refused to abandon his aircraft. When his height was only 1,000 feet he restarted the port engine and found that it was working sufficiently well to allow him to maintain height. In this condition he crossed the North Sea and executed a successful landing with only sufficient oil remaining for a few minutes flying. Squadron Leader Gonsalves displayed great skill and devotion to duty.

Acting Squadron Leader Brainard Shields IMRIE (Can/J.4425), R.C.A.F., 434 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed numerous sorties against the enemy, including attacks on such heavily defended targets as Emden, Brunswick, Stuttgart and Arras. In September, 1944, when he was attacking Castrop Rauxel, his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire before and during the bombing run, resulting in the cessation of oil to the starboard outer engine and damage to the main fuel supply to the starboard inner engine. Both engines ceased to function. The aircraft lost height and was repeatedly hit by anti-aircraft fire. Nevertheless Squadron Leader Imrie maintained complete control of his aircraft and his task was successfully completed. Leaving the target the aircraft was again hit and the elevator control rod was partly severed. Shortly afterwards the starboard inner engine became serviceable and height was regained. Squadron Leader Imrie reached base safely, where on inspection, 42 holes were found in the aircraft. Squadron Leader Imrie has shown outstanding courage and leadership and a fine fighting spirit, pressing home his attacks against the enemy whatever the opposition.

Acting Squadron Leader Allan Henderson SMITH (N.Z. 411947), R.N.Z.A.F., 197 Sqn.

This officer has achieved considerable success during a very large number of sorties, involving attacks on a wide range of targets. On his first operational tour he did much to defeat the enemy raids on our South Coast towns. He also made many attacks on shipping in the English channel and on some of the enemy's most heavily defended harbours. More recently Squadron Leader Smith has operated in support of land operations on the continent. His exceptional devotion to duty has been an outstanding example to the pilots of his squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Ronald Leslie STILLWELL, D.F.M. (126839), R.A.F.V.R., 122 Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties showing outstanding leadership, skill and devotion to duty. Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal he has destroyed 2 enemy aircraft and damaged 3 others. In addition he has inflicted much destruction on objectives on the ground.

Acting Squadron Leader John D'Auvergne WRIGHT (80136), R.A.F.V.R., 266 Sqn.

This officer has taken part in a large number of operational sorties and has displayed courage and keenness of a very high order. He has led his squadron in attacks on a wide range of enemy objectives and has achieved much success.

Flight Lieutenant George Stephen BLISS (77114), R.A.F.V.R., 21 Sqn.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties as air-gunner and, more recently, as navigator. He has destroyed one enemy aircraft and damaged another and has shared, with his pilot, in the destruction of a third enemy aircraft. He has displayed great skill and tireless enthusiasm for operations.

Flight Lieutenant Leonard William BURT (124128), R.A.F.V.R., 2 Sqn.

This officer is an operational pilot of exceptional ability. He has completed numerous reconnaissances with great skill and has brought back invaluable photographs. He has displayed exceptional determination throughout.

Flight Lieutenant Graham Harley CORRIGAN (Can/J.8403), R.C.A.F., 2 Sqn.

This officer has participated in many reconnaissance sorties during which his leadership has been an invaluable factor in the success of these missions. He has photographed accurately all types of heavily defended targets and has displayed exceptional skill and courage.

Flight Lieutenant James Roy CULLEN (N.Z. 416462), R.N.Z.A.F., 486 (N.Z.) Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Cullen has a long and distinguished record of successful operations against the enemy. His missions have been most varied, and more recently he has been engaged in the interception of flying bombs launched against this country. His skill on these operations enabled him to destroy 15 of these missiles and he shared in the destruction of 2 others.