

fire was encountered. His aircraft was struck and sustained damage, and his navigator was wounded. Nevertheless, he continued with his task, and safely brought his formation to base without further incident. Squadron Leader Lyle has consistently displayed great skill and devotion to duty.

Acting Squadron Leader James Whiteford MURRAY, D.F.C., D.F.M. (84977), R.A.F.V.R., 21 Sqn.

This officer has completed many sorties on his third tour of operational duty, most of which have been attacks on rail and road transport in or near the battle area. He has displayed notable skill and has invariably pressed home his attacks with great courage and determination. On more than one occasion, his aircraft has been damaged by anti-aircraft fire, but he has completed his mission successfully.

Acting Squadron Leader John Brown NIVEN, D.F.C. (109061), R.A.F.V.R., 485 (N.Z.) Sqn.

This officer is a highly efficient and zealous squadron commander. He has led his formation in many sorties and much loss has been inflicted on the enemy, including the destruction of 9 aircraft and a large number of mechanical vehicles. He is a brave and resourceful leader, whose tactical ability has played a good part in the good results obtained.

Flight Lieutenant Harry DAVIES, D.F.C. (104549), R.A.F.V.R., 175 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Davies has commanded his flight in an exemplary manner. He has completed a very large number of sorties, involving attacks on flying bomb installations and radio buildings, railways and a variety of other targets on the ground. He has invariably displayed a high standard of skill and courage, and, throughout, his devotion to duty has been unflagging.

Flight Lieutenant William Thomas KLEYSY, D.F.C. (Can/J.12199), R.C.A.F., 401 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer is a keen and courageous fighter. He has completed a large number of sorties and his successes include the destruction of 7 enemy aircraft and many mechanical vehicles. His example of determination and devotion to duty has been of a high order.

Flight Lieutenant Richard Donald MATTOCK, D.F.C. (129469), R.A.F.V.R.

In October, 1944, Flight Lieutenant Mattock was captain of an aircraft detailed to photograph the sea wall at West Kappelle shortly after the attack of the main bombing force. In the run-in his aircraft was hit in the tail by an anti-aircraft shell. Despite this, Flight Lieutenant Mattock coolly continued his task. Although his aircraft was continually fired upon by the enemy's batteries, this resolute pilot spent much time over the target to secure excellent photographs. This officer has completed a large number of sorties and has set a fine example of courage and devotion to duty.

Flight Lieutenant Arthur Edward Clifford WHEELER, D.F.C. (106240), R.A.F.V.R., 21 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Wheeler has recently completed a second tour of operational duty. In the course of his assignments, he has executed many successful attacks on enemy airfields, railways and road transport. He has at all times shown the greatest keenness and his example of skill and tenacity has won great praise.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant Russell Reginald BOUSKILL (Can/J.10254), R.C.A.F., 401 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has set a fine example of skill and courage. He has displayed the greatest keenness for air operations and his successes include the destruction of 5 enemy aircraft. Throughout a long period of fighter activity, his devotion to duty has been of a high order.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Douglas George BRANDRETH (155460), R.A.F.V.R., 137 Sqn.

This officer has displayed great courage and determination in air operations. He has participated in a large number of varied sorties, during which, such targets as enemy shipping, railways, military installations and gun positions have been relentlessly attacked. One day in September, 1944, he led the squadron in a successful attack on 2 gun emplacements in the Arnhem area. Before the day ended, Flight Lieutenant Brandreth led the formation in an attack on a gun position

sited in a wood. Both these attacks, which were pressed home with determination, were of great assistance to our ground forces.

Acting Flight Lieutenant James Duckworth HAWORTH (80451), R.A.F.V.R., 266 Sqn.

In the course of his second tour of operational duty, this officer has taken part in many sorties, involving attacks on vital targets in close support of the ground forces in the battle area in Northern France and later in Belgium. During these operations, Flight Lieutenant Haworth has displayed great skill and resolution and has played a worthy part in the good results obtained.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Donald MCGIBBON (80449), R.A.F.V.R., 266 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant McGibbon has proved a gallant and inspiring leader. He has taken part in a very large number of sorties, including numerous attacks on enemy shipping. He has displayed a high standard of skill, courage and tenacity, qualities which have won him much success. On one occasion, whilst over an enemy airfield, Flight Lieutenant McGibbon shot down 3 enemy aircraft.

Pilot Officer Robert Walter COLE (182716), R.A.F.V.R., 3 Sqn.

This officer has set a fine example of skill, keenness and devotion to duty. He has participated in a large number of sorties involving attacks on a wide range of enemy targets.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant Reginald Arthur ADAMS (120400), R.A.F.V.R., 515 Sqn.

Flying Officer John Roy LAKE, A.F.C. (51282), R.A.F., 515 Sqn.

Pilot Officer Terence Alfred Kenneth GROVES (179314), R.A.F.V.R., 515 Sqn.

Pilot Officer Robert Edwin PRESTON (179273), R.A.F.V.R., 515 Sqn.

Pilot Officer Frederick Henry RUFFLE (175408), R.A.F.V.R., 515 Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1179612 Flight Sergeant Robert Bell DOCKERAY, R.A.F.V.R., 515 Sqn.

1623758 Flight Sergeant Fred VERITY, R.A.F.V.R., 515 Sqn.

One night in October, 1944, these officers and airmen took part in an operation involving a mine-laying mission. Their task, which necessitated a high degree of skill and perfect co-ordination, was to detract the concentrated fire of the defences. Gun positions and searchlight defences were relentlessly attacked and a number of them put out of action. The results obtained reflect the greatest credit on the ability and resolution displayed by these officers and airmen, whose efforts contributed materially to the success of a hazardous mission.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Flying Officer Dakroy Keith GRATTON (Aus.422499), R.A.A.F., 460 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Aus.426907 Flight Sergeant Albert Vivian PEARSON, R.A.A.F., 460 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

One afternoon in October, 1944, this officer and airman were pilot and wireless operator (air) of an aircraft detailed to attack Emmerich. Whilst over the target area the aircraft sustained extensive damage. One engine was put out of action. The intercommunication system was rendered unserviceable. Two petrol tanks were holed, one of them so badly that all the contents drained away. The port aileron became ineffective and the bomber went into a steep dive. Much height was lost, before Flying Officer Gratton succeeded in levelling out. A fire had commenced in the wireless operator's cabin. Undaunted, Flight Sergeant Pearson devoted his full energies towards quelling the flames. His task was difficult. The flames assumed alarming proportions and it seemed as though the aircraft would have to be abandoned. Flight Sergeant Pearson fought on heroically, however, and finally succeeded in extinguishing the fire. The aircraft was difficult to control but Flying Officer Gratton set course for home. Eventually the English coast was reached, and this pilot headed for the nearest airfield and executed a safe landing. In the face of most harassing circumstances, Flying Officer Gratton and Flight Sergeant Pearson displayed outstanding coolness, courage and devotion to duty.