

Acting Squadron Leader Ross Garstang GRAY (Can/J.7547), R.C.A.F., 418 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has taken part in a large number of varied sorties, including attacks on enemy airfields and railways. Throughout, he has displayed a high standard of leadership, skill and courage, qualities which have contributed materially to the operational efficiency of the flight he commands. In September, 1944, Squadron Leader Gray led a section of aircraft to attack an enemy airfield at Bad Aibling. During the operation, Squadron Leader Gray shot down 2 enemy aircraft over the sea. Some days later this officer again led a small formation of aircraft to attack the two enemy air fields, one of them far into enemy territory. Once again the operation was attended with good results. Several enemy aircraft on the ground were most effectively attacked, whilst in the air, Squadron Leader Gray shot down a Focke Wulf 190. Much of the success achieved can be attributed to this officer's careful planning, great skill and gallant leadership.

Acting Squadron Leader Robert James IMBER (60553), R.A.F.V.R., 298 Sqn.

Squadron Leader Imber has completed many sorties on his second tour of operational duty. He is a gallant and resourceful pilot whose keenness for air operations has set a fine example. Many of his recent assignments have been in the nature of supply dropping missions to our troops. Squadron Leader Imber has rendered much valuable service.

Flight Lieutenant Stanley Cecil ASKEW (109030), R.A.F.V.R., 196 Sqn.

This officer has taken part in a large number of sorties. He has invariably displayed a high degree of skill and courage and has set a fine example to all.

Flight Lieutenant Duncan Lequesne BADLEY (N.Z. 416998), R.N.Z.A.F., 23 Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties, involving attacks on a wide range of targets. He has invariably displayed a high degree of skill and courage in pressing home his attacks and has been responsible for the destruction of much enemy transport on the roads. Flight Lieutenant Badley has also attacked very many locomotives to good effect. In November, 1944, this officer executed a most determined and successful attack on an airfield far into enemy territory. Although his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and one engine was put out of action, Flight Lieutenant Badley flew safely to base.

Flight Lieutenant Tom Archibald BURKE (80139), R.A.F.V.R., 602 Sqn.

This officer has completed two tours of operational duty during which he has attacked such targets as anti-aircraft gun sites, industrial plants, and locomotives. Among his successes is the destruction of 4 enemy aircraft. Flight Lieutenant Burke is a courageous and determined fighter and has set a fine example of devotion to duty.

Flight Lieutenant Basil George DUCKETT (106677), R.A.F.V.R., 85 Sqn.

This officer has set a fine example of keenness and devotion to duty in air operations. As observer he has taken part in a large number of sorties and has assisted in the destruction of 4 enemy aircraft. In addition to his work in the air, Flight Lieutenant Duckett has rendered splendid service in the training of other members of the squadron.

Flying Officer Alfred Joseph ARNOLD (Can/J.21168), R.C.A.F., 419 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

As air bomber this officer has participated in a large number of bombing missions, many of them against strongly defended targets in Germany. Throughout, he has displayed the highest standard of determination and devotion to duty and his excellent work has contributed materially to the successes obtained. On a recent occasion, a short circuit in the bombing gear caused a fire to start in the bomb aimer's compartment. Despite this, Flying Officer Arnold coolly directed the bombing run and, not until the bombs had been released, did he turn his attention towards extinguishing the fire.

Flying Officer Ross Frederick BUNCE (161255), R.A.F.V.R., 620 Sqn.

This officer has completed many bombing missions against various well defended targets; he has also taken part in numerous airborne operations. He has at all times displayed the greatest

keenness and his personal example of courage and resolution has been reflected in the fine fighting spirit of his crew. His devotion to duty has been unflinching.

Flying Officer Vincent Roy GLOVER (Can/J.14713), R.C.A.F., 420 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

In October, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft in an attack on Homberg. Whilst over the target the aircraft sustained much damage. The port wing, two petrol tanks and the elevators were affected. The aircraft became difficult to control. Nevertheless, Flying Officer Glover executed a successful bombing run and afterwards flew the damaged aircraft to base. This officer has completed a number of sorties and has set a fine example of courage and determination.

Flying Officer Dennis Henden HARDWICK (170733), R.A.F.V.R., 299 Sqn.

This officer has completed numerous sorties, some of them calling for a high degree of skill and resolution. On one occasion in September, 1944, he piloted an aircraft detailed to drop supplies to our ground forces in an area in Holland. Over the target, intense anti-aircraft fire was encountered. Just as the last of the containers had been released, the aircraft was hit. Much damage was sustained. One member of the crew was killed and a second member was wounded. The aircraft went out of control, diving steeply. Much height was lost before Flying Officer Hardwick succeeded in leveling out. Although the damaged aircraft was difficult to control this resolute pilot flew it to base and made a safe landing. Flying Officer Hardwick displayed commendable skill and coolness in hazardous circumstances.

Flying Officer Arthur JOHNSON (157672), R.A.F.V.R., 298 Sqn.

This officer is a successful and efficient captain of aircraft whose great keenness and devotion to duty have set a fine example to all. Flying Officer Johnson has participated in a large number of sorties and has invariably displayed commendable courage and skill.

Flying Officer Roy Emile LELONG (N.Z.42419), R.N.Z.A.F., 605 Sqn.

Pilot Officer John Anthony McLAREN (183413), R.A.F.V.R., 605 Sqn.

These officers are pilot and navigator of aircraft respectively. They have completed very many sorties during which they have effectively attacked numerous locomotives, sundry barges and much mechanical transport. In October, 1944, they saw 13 Dornier 24s at their moorings at a Baltic base. Flying Officer Lelong immediately dived to the attack. His first burst of fire struck one of the flying boats which burst into flames. For ten minutes he pressed home a series of attacks, frequently flying through the thick smoke and debris hurled in the air by exploding aircraft, 5 of which were left in burning, broken and sinking condition; two more were emitting dense smoke. A little later, when out to sea, a B.V. 138 was encountered. A sharp engagement ensued. Following a burst of machine gun fire from Flying Officer Lelong's guns the enemy aircraft broke away with smoke pouring from it. Some time afterwards, whilst over enemy territory the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. One engine was put out of action but Flying Officer Lelong went on to reach base. Throughout this spirited sortie, this gallant and dauntless pilot was splendidly supported by his navigator, Pilot Officer McLaren, whose undoubted ability, great coolness and resolution contributed materially to the success achieved.

Flying Officer John Donald McLAREN (54344), R.A.F., 298 Sqn.

Flying Officer McLaren has completed a very large number of sorties many of them involving attacks on heavily defended targets in Germany. More recently he has completed numerous missions involving the dropping of supplies to our ground forces. Throughout he has displayed the highest standard of determination and devotion to duty and his navigational ability has contributed in good measure to the successes obtained.

Flying Officer Kenneth Gerald ORMAN (N.Z.425590), R.N.Z.A.F., 186 Sqn.

As pilot and captain, this officer has participated in a number of sorties against various targets. In December, 1944, he was pilot in an aircraft detailed to attack Dortmund. When nearing the target the aircraft came under fire from the ground