

tributed in good measure to the successes obtained. In air fighting Flight Lieutenant Giddings has destroyed four and damaged several more enemy aircraft.

Flight Lieutenant William Wright PROVAN (124875), R.A.F.V.R., 29 Sqn.

This officer has proved himself to be a most resolute and skilful fighter and has destroyed four enemy aircraft at night; he has also effectively attacked enemy locomotives and mechanical transport. Flight Lieutenant Provan has displayed outstanding keenness for operations and has completed very many sorties.

Flight Lieutenant Douglas Mitchell REID (129126), R.A.F.V.R., 25 Sqn.

As observer, Flight Lieutenant Reid has participated in very many sorties during which he has assisted in the destruction of four enemy aircraft at night. His example of keenness and determination has been most commendable.

Flight Lieutenant Richard Lawrence Guy SUTCLIFFE (124305), R.A.F.V.R., 644 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Sutcliffe has completed much operational flying and throughout has displayed a high degree of skill and resolution. He has proved a most valuable member of the squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Richard David WARD (130411), R.A.F.V.R., 644 Sqn.

In air operations this officer has displayed skill, courage and devotion to duty of a high order.

Acting Flight Lieutenant William John GAWNE (139211), R.A.F.V.R., 644 Sqn.

As wireless operator, Flight Lieutenant Gawne has participated in very many varied sorties. He has proved himself to be a highly skilled and resolute crew member, whose strong sense of discipline and outstanding devotion to duty have set a very fine example.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Eric Stanley HUGHES (144000), R.A.F.V.R., 19 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Hughes has displayed the greatest keenness for air operations. He has participated in very many sorties, including escort missions far into enemy territory and low level attacks on such targets as locomotives and barges. In air fighting he has destroyed 3 enemy aircraft.

Flying Officer John Henry KAY (N.Z.417065), R.N.Z.A.F., 620 Sqn.

This officer has completed much operational flying during which he has attacked many targets in Germany; he has also completed many missions involving the dropping of supplies to our forces in the battle area. The successes obtained are an excellent tribute to his undoubted skill and resolution.

Flying Officer Ivor William SANDERSON (Aus.413670), R.A.A.F., 456 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Flying Officer Sanderson is a keen, skilful and resolute fighter and has destroyed 3 enemy aircraft at night. In one of these fights his aircraft was badly hit. Nevertheless, he pressed home his attack from close range and shot down the enemy aircraft. His own became difficult to control but he flew it to base and effected a safe landing. He displayed great skill and tenacity throughout.

Warrant Officer William George NICOL (989121), R.A.F.V.R., 29 Sqn.

As observer, Warrant Officer Nicol has taken part in very many sorties some of which have necessitated flights far into enemy territory. He has displayed a high degree of skill and co-operation and has assisted in the destruction of 4 enemy aircraft.

Warrant Officer Ronald Anthony SMITH (1387744), R.A.F.V.R., 298 Sqn.

This warrant officer has participated in many sorties and has set a fine example of skill and devotion to duty. On a recent occasion he captained an aircraft detailed for a sortie far into enemy territory. When nearing the target area one engine failed. Despite this, Warrant Officer Smith continued to the target and afterwards flew the aircraft to base. The success achieved on this occasion reflects the greatest credit on the skill and resolution shown by Warrant Officer Smith.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1315078 Flight Sergeant John Albert THOMPSON, R.A.F.V.R., 196 Sqn.

This airman has participated in a good number of sorties, many of them against heavily defended targets in Germany. He is a navigator of high merit, whose ability has contributed materially to the successes achieved. His services have been of great value and he has set a fine example to all.

1593173 Sergeant Ronald Vernon SWAN, R.A.F.V.R., 158 Sqn.

As air gunner, Sergeant Swan has taken part in very many attacks against a wide range of enemy targets. He has proved himself to be a most vigilant and devoted member of aircraft crew and his example has been worthy of high praise. He has been responsible for the destruction of 2 enemy fighters.

Air Ministry, 9th February, 1945.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards:—

Military Cross.

Flying Officer Stanley William Robert HARRIS (119740), R.A.F.V.R., Royal Air Force Regiment.

On the 27th September, 1944, Flying Officer Harris accompanied by 2 airmen drove a jeep into the forward areas. As the party entered the village of Stradone they were fired at by snipers and compelled to leave the jeep and take cover in a nearby building. Shortly afterwards 4 army stretcher bearers were also compelled to take cover close by. The enemy fire continued. Flying Officer Harris led the 2 parties from the rear of the building in an attempt to get clear of the danger area. As they reached the main road heavy mortar fire was encountered; Flying Officer Harris was seriously wounded in the chest. All other members of his party with the exception of a corporal were wounded and some were unable to walk. Flying Officer Harris assisted by the uninjured corporal walked back to the village and retrieved the jeep. Having been assisted into the seat Flying Officer Harris drove the vehicle back to the injured personnel who were then conveyed to the nearest field dressing station some 4 miles away. On arrival, Flying Officer Harris collapsed from loss of blood and the intense pain he had suffered. The outstanding courage, fortitude and devotion to duty displayed by this officer are worthy of high praise.

Flying Officer Angus Ian MITCHELL (127650), R.A.F.V.R., Royal Air Force Regiment.

On 29th September, 1944 whilst on detachment with the Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in South Mayu Range, this officer accompanied an assault party in an attack on an enemy position. When the commander was killed, Flying Officer Mitchell immediately assumed command and succeeded in capturing and consolidating the objective under accurate hostile shell fire. Despite the unusual situation in which he was placed he remained completely calm and showed initiative and resolution of a high order. On 2nd October, 1944, he was attached to a platoon of the service regiment which was detailed as a fighting patrol in the area of Sunia Marpara Pimples. The patrol was repeatedly attacked by superior forces and eventually surrounded. Later when the situation had deteriorated seriously, Flying Officer Mitchell gallantly volunteered to make his way back to the company's base with a view to bringing down artillery support to assist in the withdrawal of the patrol. Although there was little cover on the journey, and the ground was swept by enemy automatic fire, he succeeded in getting through. His conduct was most praiseworthy and materially assisted in the successful withdrawal of the patrol. Flying Officer Mitchell showed marked courage and determination in carrying out an extremely difficult and hazardous task.

Flying Officer Norman John PAGE (137852), R.A.F.V.R., Royal Air Force Regiment.

One afternoon in September, 1944, in an attempt to save 20 men of a Light Anti-Aircraft unit, who were surrounded, the rifle flight under the command of Flying Officer Page twice engaged greatly superior forces of the enemy, who were in well concealed positions in a wood N.E. of Vaek, south of the Leopold Canal. During the second engagement, the flight was beset on three sides by heavy