

Acting Flight Lieutenant Neil Duncan MARA (Can/J. 16120), R.C.A.F., 433 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

One night in December, 1944, this officer was the pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack Osnabruck. Before reaching the target, trouble was experienced with the port outer engine which began to mis-fire, followed by a large flame from the exhaust. The throttle control kept jumping back to the closed position. Despite this, Flight Lieutenant Mara went on to the target. Whilst on the bombing run, flames once again shot out from the exhaust. Nevertheless, this pilot continued his run and the bombs were released. At this point, two enemy aircraft attempted to close in. Flight Lieutenant Mara evaded them and course was set for home. Soon after crossing the enemy coast, the hydraulic system became unserviceable. The bomb doors fell open and the tail wheel dropped to the down position. Despite this, Flight Lieutenant Mara, when he reached an airfield, effected a safe landing. This officer displayed great skill and coolness in difficult circumstances.

Acting Flight Lieutenant James Anthony ROWLAND (Aus.422909), R.A.A.F., 635 Sqn.

In December, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft in an attack on Dusseldorf. When on the outward journey, the port engine failed. Despite this Flight Lieutenant Rowland continued his mission. He was unable to climb satisfactorily and his aircraft was subjected to much heavy and light anti-aircraft fire. Damage was sustained but this did not deter this resolute pilot who went on to execute his attack. The aircraft sustained more damage when leaving the target area but Flight Lieutenant Rowland flew back to base. This officer has completed numerous sorties and throughout his work has been characterised by great determination and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Richard Joseph AUDET (Can/J.20136), R.C.A.F., 411 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has proved himself to be a highly skilled and courageous fighter. In December, 1944, the squadron was involved in an engagement against 12 enemy fighters in the Rheine/Osnabruck area. In a most spirited action, Flying Officer Audet achieved outstanding success by destroying 5 enemy aircraft. This feat is a splendid tribute to his brilliant shooting, great gallantry and tenacity.

Flying Officer Michael James Burke COLE (156033), R.A.F.V.R., 137 Sqn.

In December, 1944, Flying Officer Cole was detailed to lead a section of aircraft on an armed reconnaissance S.W. of Bremen. Following a number of attacks on trains, intense anti-aircraft fire was encountered and Flying Officer Cole's aircraft was hit. Undeterred he continued to lead his section and made another successful attack on a locomotive. Shortly after leaving the target his aircraft was again hit, the starboard rudder control being shot away and the tailplane damaged. Despite this, Flying Officer Cole flew his aircraft back to base and made a safe landing. This officer has participated in a large number of sorties and has displayed a high standard of skill and gallantry throughout.

Lieutenant Andre Frederick GREEN (328554V), S.A.A.F., 184 Sqn.

Since joining the squadron, Lieutenant Green has participated in many sorties covering the battle area. In spite of bad weather and in the face of heavy fire, he has invariably pressed home his attacks with skill and daring. He has most effectively attacked a number of locomotives and railway wagons, many mechanical vehicles and other targets on the ground. He has set a fine example of determination and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Joseph Rodolphe Henri LAFRENIERE (Can/J.35881), R.C.A.F., 425 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed many operational missions and throughout has displayed devotion to duty of a high standard. One night in December, 1944, he piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Hagen. On the outward flight the aircraft sustained damage. The tip of the starboard mainplane was torn away; the top portion of a rudder was also broken off. In spite of this, Flying Officer Lafreniere went on to the target and executed a successful attack. He displayed exceptional determination throughout.

Flying Officer Samuel Blair LINDSAY (Can/J.38181), R.C.A.F., 419 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer was the navigator in an aircraft which attacked Oberhausen. Shortly after leaving the target the aircraft was attacked by a fighter. Extensive damage was sustained. Three of the crew were wounded, including Flying Officer Lindsay who was hit in the back; his face was also badly lacerated by fragments of shrapnel. A fire had started in his compartment but he was able to quell it by means of an extinguisher. He afterwards put out another fire which had started in the root of the starboard wing. In so doing his hands were badly burned. Soon afterwards, Flying Officer Lindsay fainted through shock. He soon revived when his injuries had been attended to and resumed his duties. Much of his equipment had been destroyed in the fight. Nevertheless, he navigated the aircraft to base. In the face of most harassing circumstances, this officer displayed great courage, fortitude and resource.

Warrant Officer Robert LOCKYER (1484090), R.A.F.V.R., 182 Sqn.

In December, 1944, Warrant Officer Lockyer, as pilot of an aircraft, was detailed to attack concentrations of mechanical transport and troops in the Jülich-Neuss-Ahrweiler area. Considerable anti-aircraft fire was encountered. Despite this Warrant Officer Lockyer pressed home his attack. As he turned to leave the target, he saw the gun position from which the enemy's anti-aircraft fire was being directed. Displaying the greatest resolution, this pilot immediately dived to the attack and was responsible for silencing the guns. Warrant Officer Cole has participated in very many varied sorties and has displayed outstanding keenness and devotion to duty.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1580325 Flight Sergeant Kenneth George ELLIS, R.A.F.V.R., 540 Sqn.

Flight Sergeant Ellis has participated in very many operational missions and throughout has displayed a high standard of ability. On one occasion, in November, 1944, he was the navigator in an aircraft detailed for a reconnaissance which called for a high degree of skill and fortitude. During the operation several enemy objectives were reconnoitred, including the German battleship Tirpitz shortly after the vessel had been successfully attacked. His faultless navigation, despite difficult weather, contributed in good measure to the success of a notable sortie.

Air Ministry, 16th February, 1945.

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

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leaders.

Leslie William Norman BOOTH, D.F.C. (145299), R.A.F.V.R., 582 Sqn.

John Nisbet Scott CUMMING, D.F.C. (43935), R.A.F., 109 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenants.

Max Reginald ASHMAN, D.F.C. (120405), R.A.F.V.R., 582 Sqn.

James Ronald CASSELS, D.F.C. (128680), R.A.F.V.R., 139 Sqn.

Robert Breedlove CASTLE, D.F.C. (103005), R.A.F.V.R., 105 Sqn.

Bernard James DOBSON, D.F.C. (109371), R.A.F.V.R., 44 Sqn.

Frederick Maurice Henry FISHER, D.F.C. (130524), R.A.F.V.R., 49 Sqn.

Thomas Cameron GRAHAM, D.F.C. (125622), R.A.F.V.R., 109 Sqn.

John Jenkins HUNTER, D.F.C. (147143), R.A.F.V.R., 105 Sqn.

George Edward LOWE, D.F.C. (136046), R.A.F.V.R., 10 Sqn.

Arthur O'HARA, D.F.C., D.F.M. (132344), R.A.F.V.R., 109 Sqn.

Frank Cyril PETTS, D.F.C. (47555), R.A.F., 109 Sqn.

Acting Flight Lieutenants.

Robert Leslie Cecil LASHAM, D.F.C. (161609), R.A.F.V.R., 97 Sqn.

Donald Kenneth NELSON, D.F.C. (157434), R.A.F.V.R., 7 Sqn.

Bernard Ernest PATRICK, D.F.C. (170998), R.A.F.V.R., 109 Sqn.