

he piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Munich. Some distance from the target the aircraft sustained damage, making it difficult to control. In spite of this Flight Lieutenant Rose continued his mission. Later the port outer engine failed. Height was rapidly lost and the aircraft came down to 1,000 feet. Flight Lieutenant Rose succeeded in regaining control and, displaying outstanding airmanship, flew the badly damaged aircraft to base. His skill, coolness and determination set an excellent example.

Flying Officer Stanley Vernon GEORGE (Aus. 412944), R.A.A.F., 467 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed a good number of sorties, many of them against strongly defended targets far into German territory. He has at all times displayed the greatest keenness and his determination to complete his missions successfully has been most commendable. One night in November, 1944, he piloted an aircraft in an attack against the Dortmund-Ems Canal. On the outward flight the aircraft was attacked simultaneously by two fighters. Damage was sustained and a member of the crew was badly wounded. In spite of this, the enemy aircraft were evaded and Flying Officer George went on to the target which was successfully bombed. On the return journey, his aircraft was twice engaged by fighters but Flying Officer George manoeuvred with much skill and enabled his gunners to drive off the attackers. On this spirited sortie, this officer displayed coolness and courage of a high order.

Acting Flying Officer Sydney Gordon GOODING (Aus. 423417), R.A.A.F., 101 Sqn.

One night in December, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft in an attack against Scholven. When nearing the target the aircraft sustained severe damage, making it difficult to control. Despite this, Flying Officer Gooding executed a good run, enabling his bomb aimer to attack the target effectively. He afterwards flew his damaged aircraft back to this country. This officer has completed very many sorties and has invariably shown a high degree of skill and bravery.

Pilot Officer Patrick John FRY (189130), R.A.F.V.R., 236 Sqn.

Pilot Officer Fry is a keen and competent pilot. He has completed very many operational missions, including numerous attacks on enemy shipping. On a recent occasion he took part in an attack against shipping in the harbour at Den Heider. Opposition was intense. Nevertheless, Pilot Officer Fry pressed home his attack with great courage and determination, setting a very fine example.

Pilot Officer Steve BUTTE (Can./J.85829), R.C.A.F., 403 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

One morning early in January, 1945, Pilot Officer Butte was detailed to fly the leading aircraft of a section on a sortie over the battle zone. Just as the formation became airborne a large force of enemy fighters attacked the airfield. Pilot Officer Butte immediately engaged one of the enemy aircraft, shooting it down. A second and yet a third attacker fell to his guns before his ammunition was expended. He was himself then attacked by two fighters but out-maneuvred them. In this engagement against a vastly superior number of enemy aircraft, Pilot Officer Butte displayed great skill, bravery and tenacity.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Geoffrey Forbes BALE (N.Z.421001), R.N.Z.A.F., 195 Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1597723 Sergeant John FRANKLAND, R.A.F.V.R., 195 Sqn.

2219325 Sergeant Frederick Charles WILLIAMS, R.A.F.V.R., 195 Sqn.

This officer and these airmen were pilot, mid-upper and rear gunners respectively in an aircraft

detailed to attack Witten in December, 1944. On the outward flight, the aircraft was subjected to a series of attacks by fighters. In the first attack the bomber sustained damage to the rudder and two petrol tanks were pierced. As the enemy aircraft came in again, Sergeants Frankland and Williams defended their aircraft with great resolution and were responsible for the destruction of one of the attackers. The bomber was repeatedly hit and sustained further damage. Although both turrets had been rendered unserviceable and had to be operated manually, these gunners shot down a second enemy aircraft. Throughout the fights, Flight Lieutenant Bale co-operated splendidly with his gunners and his skilful manoeuvring enabled them to deliver effective fire. Despite the damage sustained, this pilot went on to the target and executed his bombing attack. He afterwards flew back to an airfield in Allied territory. This officer and these airmen set a splendid example of skill, courage and devotion to duty in the face of great danger.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer Kenneth Francis Hall WRIGHT (159515), R.A.F.V.R., 10 Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1380415 Flight Sergeant Roger GARDNER, R.A.F.V.R., 10 Sqn.

In air operations these members of aircraft crew have displayed fortitude, courage and devotion to duty of a high order.

Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (Flying).

1880966 Sergeant Derrick John ALLEN, R.A.F.V.R., 467 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

This airman was the mid-upper gunner in an aircraft detailed to attack Dusseldorf one night in November, 1944. During the operation the aircraft was attacked by a fighter. Sergeant Allen opened fire but the enemy aircraft closed in and the bomber was struck by a burst of machine gun fire which caused much damage. A second attack followed and again the aircraft was hit. The port outer engine was hit and caught fire. All efforts to extinguish the flames were unavailing. Later, the aircraft lost height and then dived out of control. The position became hopeless and the captain ordered his crew to abandon aircraft. The rear gunner was unable to open his turret doors and was trapped. With complete disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Allen promptly went to the assistance of his comrade. The aircraft was now on fire and falling rapidly. Nevertheless, this gallant airman hacked away at the turret doors with an axe and finally succeeded in freeing his comrade. Just as Sergeant Allen got ready to jump, the aircraft broke in two. He fell clear, however, pulled the rip cord of his parachute and descended safely. In the face of extreme danger this airman displayed conduct in keeping with the best traditions of the Royal Air Force.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1591903 Sergeant William Tetley STOKES, R.A.F.V.R., 467 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

As flight engineer, Sergeant Stokes has taken part in very many operational missions, including attacks on such targets as Stuttgart, Bremen and Brunswick. One night in November, 1944, he participated in an attack on the Dortmund-Ems Canal. When nearing the target the aircraft sustained damage and a member of the crew was wounded in an engagement with a fighter. Displaying great coolness, Sergeant Stokes rendered first aid to his comrade and afterwards rendered much assistance to his captain in the run-up to the target which was bombed with accuracy. This airman proved himself to be a cool, resourceful and devoted crew member.

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