

Acting Wing Commander James Gillies BENSON, D.F.C. (81365), R.A.F.V.R., 157 Sqn.
Acting Squadron Leader Lewis BRANDON, D.F.C. (116886), R.A.F.V.R., 157 Sqn.

These officers have displayed the highest standard of skill and determination. As pilot and observer respectively they have completed a very large number of sorties and have inflicted much loss on the enemy. Among their successes is the destruction of 10 enemy aircraft, the last of which they shot down one night in January, 1945. Their devotion to duty has been unflinching.

Acting Squadron Leader Herbert Brian Felix LYMNA, D.F.C., D.F.M. (51511), R.A.F., 7 Sqn.

This officer has taken part in more than ninety sorties against various enemy targets, most of them heavily defended. He has consistently displayed a high standard of gallantry and his strong sense of discipline and devotion to duty at all times have set a very fine example. In January, 1945, Squadron Leader Lymna was the bomb aimer in an aircraft detailed to attack Munich. On the outward flight some of the navigational equipment became partially unserviceable. Squadron Leader Lymna skilfully effected repairs. When nearing the target the aircraft came under heavy anti-aircraft fire and was repeatedly hit. For the second time, the same equipment became unserviceable. Nevertheless, Squadron Leader Lymna again effected repairs and was able to give his captain directions for an accurate bombing run. His cool and skilful work contributed materially to the success of the sortie. This officer has rendered much loyal and devoted service in air operations against the enemy.

Flight Lieutenant Roberts Hortop PHILLIPS, D.F.C. (100093), R.A.F.V.R., 7 Sqn.

This officer is an outstanding captain who has completed more than ninety operational missions. One night in January, 1945, he piloted an aircraft in an attack against Munich. The operation called for a high degree of skill and resolution. In spite of considerable fire which was directed at his aircraft, Flight Lieutenant Phillips made two runs over the target to ensure accuracy. His fearlessness, skill and devotion were well illustrated on this notable sortie.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant Richard Tannatt GOUCHER (103593), R.A.F.V.R., 85 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Charles Howard BULLOCK (116116), R.A.F.V.R., 85 Sqn.

These officers were pilot and observer respectively of an aircraft detailed for a sortie one night in January, 1945. During the operation they shot down 2 enemy aircraft. In the second of these fights they pressed home their attack from such close range that their own aircraft was showered with debris when the enemy aircraft exploded in the air. Much damage was sustained and one engine was put out of action. Nevertheless, this pilot flew to an airfield in allied territory. Flight Lieutenants Goucher and Bullock have invariably displayed high qualities of skill and courage in their attacks and have destroyed 5 enemy aircraft.

Flight Lieutenant Roger John HOWLEY (Aus. 403670), R.A.A.F., 94 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Howley has shown outstanding determination in air operations. On one occasion he and another pilot were attacked by four enemy aircraft. In the ensuing fight Flight Lieutenant Howley shot down one of the attackers and the other 3 were driven off. During an attack on the Pristina railway sidings, Flight Lieutenant Howley achieved much success causing the destruction of four railway engines and five complete trains. On many other occasions his excellent work has resulted in very serious damage to the enemy.

Flight Lieutenant Jeffrey Noel Bartram ROUNCE (129949), R.A.F.V.R., 612 Sqn.

Since commencing a second tour of operational duty, this officer has participated in several attacks on enemy shipping. In January, 1945, Flight Lieutenant Rounce engaged 4 E-boats. In spite of considerable anti-aircraft fire, he pressed home a good bombing attack and afterwards came down to a low level to spray the two remaining vessels with machine gun fire. Some days later Flight Lieutenant Rounce made another good

attack on a force of 4 E-boats. This officer has displayed high powers of leadership and has set a fine example of keenness and efficiency.

Flying Officer Frank LLOYD (55107), R.A.F., 582 Sqn.

One night in January, 1945, this officer was pilot and captain of an aircraft detailed to attack Merseburg-Leuna. Seconds after the bombs had been released the aircraft was badly hit. The control column was wrenched from Flying Officer Lloyd's hands and the bomber went into a steep dive. Before this pilot could regain control considerable height was lost. It was then found that both the starboard engines had been rendered unserviceable. The starboard aileron had been severed, one of the petrol tanks had been hit and its contents lost, whilst in the fuselage a 3 foot hole had been torn. In spite of this, Flying Officer Lloyd flew the badly damaged aircraft to an airfield near the English Coast and landed it safely. This officer displayed the finest qualities of captaincy, great skill and resolution.

Flying Officer Bertram James Pitt SIMPKINS (152496), R.A.F.V.R., 85 Sqn.

This officer is a highly skilled observer who has participated in very many sorties and has assisted in the destruction of 3 enemy aircraft. He has at all times displayed the greatest keenness and has proved himself to be a most devoted crew member.

Flying Officer Robert Owen SYMON (145036), R.A.F.V.R., 85 Sqn.

As observer, Flying Officer Symon has taken part in very many sorties and has assisted in the destruction of 3 enemy aircraft. He has displayed a high standard of keenness and has proved himself to be a most valuable crew member.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer Patrick John McVERRY (N.Z. 417081), R.N.Z.A.F., 582 Sqn.

Flying Officer Warwick George THORBY (157340), R.A.F.V.R., 582 Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Aus. 428491 Flight Sergeant James Montgomery CARROLL, R.A.A.F., 582 Sqn.

1817083 Sergeant Trevor MYATT, R.A.F.V.R., 582 Sqn.

Flying Officer Thorby, Flight Sergeant Carroll and Sergeant Myatt were navigator, wireless operator and mid-upper gunner respectively in an aircraft piloted by Flying Officer McVerry in an attack on the oil refinery at Zeitz one night in January, 1945. Although two engines became troublesome soon after leaving base, Flying Officer McVerry used them most skilfully and was able to reach the target on time. During the bombing run, the aircraft was hit by fire from the ground defences whilst illuminated in the searchlights. Nevertheless, Flying Officer McVerry held to a steady run until the bombs were released. Shortly afterwards, the aircraft was attacked by a fighter. Serious damage was sustained. The elevator controls were rendered useless and the bomber went into a steep dive. Flying Officer McVerry succeeded in levelling out but, for the remainder of the fight he was faced with the greatest difficulty in retaining even a measure of control. The position was most alarming but, with great coolness, Flying Officer Thorby worked out a new course and the aircraft was headed towards allied territory. Meantime, Flight Sergeant Carroll and Sergeant Myatt had gone to the assistance of the rear gunner who lay wounded and trapped in his gun turret. In total darkness, and lacking oxygen, all but one of the supply bottles having been broken, they worked heroically. Although badly hindered by the manoeuvres of the aircraft which was constantly diving and climbing, they succeeded in freeing their comrade. At this point, Flight Sergeant Carroll collapsed. He revived, however, after being given oxygen by Flying Officer Thorby who had carried him forward. When allied territory was reached, Flying Officer McVerry gave the order to abandon aircraft. Before jumping themselves, these crew members prepared their injured comrade for the parachute descent and released him first. Afterwards all came down safely. In circumstances of great peril, these members of aircraft crew displayed the highest standard of bravery, coolness and resolution.