

Acting Squadron Leader Robert William Rouviere Day (Can./C.1459), R.C.A.F., 67 Sqn.

Squadron Leader Day is a most determined and resolute fighter. He has completed a large number of sorties and has invariably displayed the greatest keenness. In January, 1945, Squadron Leader Day led a section of four aircraft in an engagement against six Japanese aircraft. Five of the latter were shot down, two of them by Squadron Leader Day. This officer has shot down at least five enemy aircraft.

Acting Squadron Leader Everett Bryan Rogers (81373), R.A.F.V.R., 640 Sqn.

This officer has displayed the highest standard of devotion to duty. In spite of several trying experiences in the early years of the war, Squadron Leader Rogers has maintained the greatest zest for air operations. He has now completed a very large number of bombing sorties, involving attacks on a wide range of strongly defended enemy targets. On one occasion, when approaching Sterkrade, a shell burst beneath the tailplane, causing the aircraft to turn completely over on its back and fall towards the ground out of control. Considerable height was lost before Squadron Leader Rogers was able to right the aircraft. After assuring himself that his crew were unharmed, this resolute pilot went on to complete his attack and afterwards flew his badly damaged aircraft to base. More recently, when detailed to attack Chemnitz, Squadron Leader Rogers showed the same outstanding determination to complete his mission successfully. When some distance from the target his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. The controls were affected. Although he could only use the trimming tabs to manoeuvre his aircraft, Squadron Leader Rogers continued to the target, which he bombed successfully. His example of courage and resolution has won great praise.

Acting Squadron Leader George Harold Whowell (128986), R.A.F.V.R., 166 Sqn.

One night in February, 1945, Squadron Leader Whowell captained an aircraft detailed to attack Dresden. Whilst still many miles from the target, the starboard outer engine failed. Squadron Leader Whowell decided to continue his mission and, by a superb display of airmanship, arrived at the target on time to execute a successful attack. Squadron Leader Whowell afterwards flew the aircraft safely back to base and made a successful landing. This officer set a fine example of devotion to duty and his determination was in keeping with that which he has shown throughout his tour of operational duty.

Flight Lieutenant George Lawry Usher (88251), R.A.F.V.R., 112 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Usher has completed numerous sorties on his third tour of operational duty. He has successfully attacked a wide variety of targets, including bridges, rolling stock and an oil tanker. Flight Lieutenant Usher has invariably shown high courage, sound judgment and unfailing devotion to duty.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Lewis Philip Boucher (177902), R.A.F.V.R., 181 Sqn.

In February, 1945, Flight Lieutenant Boucher participated in a long range armed reconnaissance over the Dulmen-Hoxtor-Merschede area. Seven goods trains and a locomotive were located west of Merschede, on a section of the railway system sheltered by low hills on either side and defended by anti-aircraft trucks. In the face of the most intense and accurate enemy fire, Flight Lieutenant Boucher led his formation into the attack. Five locomotives were destroyed and three damaged. The tail of his aircraft was severely damaged but Flight Lieutenant Boucher brought it safely to base. Since this action, Flight Lieutenant Boucher has led formations of aircraft on several sorties, during which 15 locomotives have been destroyed and eight more damaged. His leadership has been most inspiring and his courage and devotion to duty have set a fine example to all.

Flying Officer Walter Ross Tinker (N.Z.422078), R.N.Z.A.F., 69 Sqn.

This officer, as captain of aircraft, was recently detailed for a night reconnaissance. When commencing his reconnaissance his aircraft was subjected to intense anti-aircraft fire. By skilful flying Flying Officer Tinker avoided any major damage to his aircraft but the hydraulic system was hit. This caused the bomb doors to remain open and rendered the rear turret unserviceable.

Nevertheless, Flying Officer Tinker continued with his task and completed a successful attack. He then flew his damaged aircraft back to base where, by using the emergency undercarriage gear and without flaps, he executed a successful landing. Flying Officer Tinker has throughout his tour displayed outstanding courage and the greatest determination to complete his missions successfully. He has set a splendid example to his squadron.

Flying Officer Edward John Tovell (Aus.414526), R.A.A.F., 299 Sqn.

In February, 1945, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack a target in North-West Germany. At one point on the outward flight, the port inner engine exploded and caught fire. The aircraft lost height rapidly and Flying Officer Tovell ordered his crew to prepare to abandon. He succeeded in regaining control, however, and then flew on to the target which he bombed at a much lower level than planned. He afterwards flew back to base and effected a safe landing. This officer displayed great skill, coolness and resolution throughout. He has completed very many sorties against a variety of enemy targets.

Flying Officer William Alan Liddell Trotter (N.Z.417131), R.N.Z.A.F., 486 (N.Z.) Sqn.

This officer has participated in a large number of sorties, during which he has successfully attacked a variety of enemy targets, including shipping, locomotives and railway coaches, mechanical transport and gun positions. Throughout these operations, Flying Officer Trotter has shown the highest standard of skill and courage. His good work has contributed materially to the successes of the squadron. In January, 1945, when returning from a sortie, Flying Officer Trotter shot down a F.W.190 which had attempted to machine gun the airfield. Some days later, in a low level attack on a locomotive, this officer was badly wounded in the groin by a piece of shrapnel, which entered the lower abdomen. Although in acute distress, this brave pilot flew more than 100 miles to reach base and land his aircraft safely. He displayed unbeatable determination and fortitude.

Pilot Officer Harold Murray Rittman (Aus.410094), R.A.A.F., 683 Sqn.

This officer is a most resourceful and determined pilot whose excellent reconnaissance work has proved of great value. He has completed a large number of missions, involving flights over far distant and well defended targets and has at all times shown the highest standard of devotion to duty. In February, 1945, Pilot Officer Rittman was detailed to reconnoitre the Vienna area. On the outward flight engine trouble developed. Some air speed was lost but Pilot Officer Rittman continued to the target over which he remained for a lengthy period. The photographs he secured pay a fine tribute to his great skill and perseverance.

Air Ministry, 27th March, 1945.

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

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officers.

Leon Ernest CHAPMAN (158997), R.A.F.V.R., 622 Sqn.

Cyril Robert CLARK (162626), R.A.F.V.R., 635 Sqn.

Brian Thornton CLOUGH (174757), R.A.F.V.R., 51 Sqn.

John Leslie Ross COLEMAN (53438), R.A.F., 578 Sqn.

Henry James CROW (178712), R.A.F.V.R., 192 Sqn.

Ronald Hinde EDMUNDSON (172604), R.A.F.V.R., 514 Sqn.

George Upham EVANS (151341), R.A.F.V.R., 460 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Norman Stuart EVANS (148000), R.A.F.V.R., 78 Sqn.

Anthony George FRISH (176948), R.A.F.V.R., 103 Sqn.

Charles Randall GODFREY (146099), R.A.F.V.R., 635 Sqn.

Sidney Douglas GOOD (158299), R.A.F.V.R., 44 Sqn.

George Leonard GRANTHAM (144327), R.A.F.V.R., 578 Sqn.

William Geoffrey GREEN (176170), R.A.F.V.R., 626 Sqn.

William Norman HARPER (179938), R.A.F.V.R., 640 Sqn.