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Flight Lieutenant William Sproat BIGGAR (112483), R.A.F.V.R., 502 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Biggar is a most skilful and resolute pilot and captain. He has participated in a large number of sorties, including a number of successful attacks on enemy shipping. In February, 1945, Flight Lieutenant Biggar pressed home a good attack on one of two medium sized merchantmen. His determination on this occasion was characteristic of that which he has shown throughout his tour of duty.

Flight Lieutenant William Thomas George GABRIEL (69432), R.A.F.V.R., 9 Sqn.

This officer has participated in very many sorties against strongly defended enemy targets. In January, 1945, he was rear gunner in an aircraft detailed to attack the submarine pens at Bergen. Soon after leaving the target area the aircraft was engaged by 4 fighters. In the first attack, Flight Lieutenant Gabriel's gun turret was rendered unserviceable. A little later he was wounded in the leg and also injured above the eye. Nevertheless, this officer, in conjunction with the mid-upper gunner, whose turret had also been put out of action, gave clear and concise evading directions to the pilot who manoeuvred with much skill. In all, 15 attacks were suffered but the enemy was prevented from pressing these attacks home. Not until the engagement was terminated did Flight Lieutenant Gabriel inform his captain of his injuries. He displayed exceptional coolness and devotion to duty throughout.

Flight Lieutenant Frederick Arthur HADEN, A.F.C. (133995), R.A.F.V.R., 162 Sqn.

In February, 1945, this officer was pilot and captain in an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin. At the commencement of the bombing run the aircraft was illuminated in a cone of searchlights. Despite this Flight Lieutenant Haden maintained a straight and level course. A shell burst in front of the aircraft and the windscreen around the pilot was shattered. Flight Lieutenant Haden was temporarily blinded by particles of glass. Nevertheless, he kept the aircraft on a straight run. His navigator was thus enabled to release the bombs with accuracy. After his injured eyes had been attended to he resumed full control of the aircraft and completed the long flight home safely. This officer displayed exceptional determination and devotion to duty, qualities which have been well in evidence in all his sorties against the enemy.

Flight Lieutenant John Rintoul HUTCHISON (106362), R.A.F.V.R., 502 Sqn.

Flying Officer John Archibald O'REILLY (151910), R.A.F.V.R., 502 Sqn.

As pilot and navigator of aircraft respectively, these officers have participated in many varied sorties, including numerous successful attacks on enemy shipping. On one occasion, in December, 1944, they pressed home an attack on a large supply vessel off Goteborg. Two hits were obtained amidships. In March, 1945, they secured another notable success against a medium-sized merchantman at the entrance to Oslo fjord. In spite of fierce opposing fire, the attack was well pressed home and two hits were obtained on the stern of the vessel. In these well executed attacks, Flight Lieutenant Hutchison and Flying Officer O'Reilly displayed courage and resolution of a high order.

Flight Lieutenant William LEACH (Aus.425524), R.A.A.F., 502 Sqn.

This officer has taken part in a good number of sorties, many of them being attacks on enemy shipping. He is a most competent and courageous crew member, whose navigational ability has been an important factor in the success of many of the operations in which he has taken part. He has displayed the highest standard of keenness and devotion to duty and has proved a most valuable asset to the squadron.

Flight Lieutenant John MACFADYEN (132323), R.A.F.V.R., 58 Sqn.

This officer has displayed great skill and courage in air operations. He has completed many sorties, including numerous telling attacks on enemy shipping and the success achieved is a good tribute to

his great determination. His most recent success was in March, 1945, when he obtained a hit on a medium-sized enemy ship, escorted by a naval vessel. This officer has set a fine example of devotion to duty.

Flight Lieutenant Harry Glendining PATTISON (141466), R.A.F.V.R., 182 Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties during which he has attacked a wide range of enemy targets. He has at all times displayed the greatest keenness and determination and has obtained many successes over various battle areas. In January, 1945, Flight Lieutenant Pattison participated in a sortie during which seven locomotives were destroyed. By his skilful leadership this officer contributed in good measure to the results obtained.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Lionel Elwood COULTER (Can./J.27630), R.C.A.F., 434 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has participated in very many sorties and has proved himself to be a cool, confident and skilful pilot and captain. He has invariably pressed home his attacks and his determination has won much praise. One night in February, 1945, he piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Mannheim. On the outward flight an engine failed. In spite of this, Flight Lieutenant Coulter continued to the target. Whilst over the area, a fault in the electrical circuit caused a small fire in the bomb aimer's compartment. The fire was quickly extinguished, however, and the target was then successfully attacked. During the return flight, Flight Lieutenant Coulter skilfully evaded a fighter which attempted to close in. This officer displayed outstanding devotion to duty throughout a trying sortie.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Francis John HOWELLS (Aus.419044), R.A.A.F., 463 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer was the pilot and captain of an aircraft detailed to attack Merseburg-Leuna in January, 1945. Whilst over the target area the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. The hydraulic system was affected and the front and rear turrets were rendered unserviceable. In spite of this, Flight Lieutenant Howells circled the target to begin the bombing run. The aircraft was again hit. Pieces of shrapnel shattered the canopy above the pilot's head and damaged the instrument panel. The port engine was also hit and caught fire. The propeller was feathered but the flames had attracted an enemy fighter which made two determined attacks. By skilful manoeuvring, Flight Lieutenant Howells succeeded in evading the attacker and went on to bomb the target. Soon afterwards the aircraft was hit yet again. A petrol tank was holed and its contents drained away. The starboard mainplane sustained some damage. In spite of this, Flight Lieutenant Howells flew back to this country and brought the severely damaged aircraft safely down at the nearest available airfield. Flight Lieutenant Howells displayed exceptional skill, great courage and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Frederick Harold EDWARDS (179648), R.A.F.V.R., 150 Sqn.

In March, 1945, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Dessau. On the outward flight the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. The starboard tailplane and the elevator were damaged. The rear turret was rendered unserviceable. The aircraft was difficult to control but Flying Officer Edwards continued to the target and executed his attack. He afterwards flew to the nearest available airfield in this country and landed safely. Unfortunately, the aircraft caught fire afterwards. The flames spread rapidly. With great coolness, Flying Officer Edwards and his crew fought well to control the fire until the arrival of the fire party who succeeded in quelling the flames. Flying Officer Edwards displayed praiseworthy courage and tenacity throughout a trying sortie.

Flying Officer Maurice FREEMAN (162239), R.A.F.V.R., 241 Sqn.

This officer has participated in a large number of sorties and has consistently displayed skill and courage of a high standard. In January, 1945, Flying Officer Freeman was detailed for a reconnaissance, covering an enemy waterway. During the operation the aircraft was subjected to considerable anti-aircraft fire. Just before leaving the target his aircraft was hit. One engine was damaged. In spite of this, Flying Officer Freeman flew safely to base. He had secured valuable information. This officer has invariably displayed the greatest resolution.