

jumped. He landed in enemy territory and was captured. Later this brave officer escaped and returned to this country. He displayed the highest standard of courage, skill and fortitude. Prior to this sortie, this officer had completed many successful missions against well defended targets in Germany.

Lieutenant Colin Charles BEATTIE (205777V), S.A.A.F., 31 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed very many bombing missions against enemy targets. He has at all times set a fine example of keenness, together with a high degree of skill and determination. One night in March, 1945, Lieutenant Beattie piloted an aircraft detailed to attack the railway yards at Verona. At one point en route to the target the aircraft was engaged by a fighter and two engines were hit. The propeller of one of them had to be feathered. Although Lieutenant Beattie manoeuvred with much skill his aircraft sustained more hits and one of the gunners was slightly wounded. At this stage, Lieutenant Beattie had to feather the propeller of a second engine which had become useless. Another fighter, closed in but Flight Lieutenant Beattie evaded its machine-gun fire. Five attacks were sustained in all before this pilot, manoeuvring the crippled aircraft with great skill, succeeded in evading the enemy. He afterwards flew back to an airfield where he effected a masterly landing. He set a fine example of devotion to duty in the face of most harassing circumstances.

Flying Officer Leslie BROOKES (56114), R.A.F., 240 Sqn.

This officer has at all times proved a most determined and courageous captain of aircraft. He has completed many operational missions against a variety of targets and has invariably pressed home his attacks with great resolution. On a recent occasion he successfully completed a sortie which necessitated a flight far into enemy territory, over difficult terrain and in most adverse weather. The skill, courage and resolution shown by this officer was typical of that which he has displayed throughout his tour of operational duty.

Acting Flying Officer Douglas Leonard WOOD (189210), R.A.F.V.R., No. 158 Sqn.

Throughout his operational tour, Flying Officer Wood has set a high standard of skill, gallantry and devotion to duty. He has participated in very many bombing missions, most of them against well defended targets. On one occasion in April, 1945, Flying Officer Wood showed his fine qualities and disregard for danger, by escorting a severely damaged bomber of his formation which had fallen behind the main force, until well over allied territory. Flying Officer Wood's operational record is worthy of the greatest praise.

Pilot Officer James Henry COLE (189896), R.A.F.V.R., 644 Sqn.

This officer has participated in a large number of operations as navigator, including numerous airborne missions. He has at all times displayed great keenness for operational flying and his consistent good work throughout has been highly commendable.

Warrant Officer William John WALSH (N.Z.4212875), R.N.Z.A.F., 158 Sqn.

Warrant Officer Walsh has completed many sorties as pilot and captain of aircraft against a variety of well defended enemy targets. On one occasion in April, 1945, he was detailed to attack Nurnburg. On the bombing run his aircraft was hit and severely damaged by enemy fire. The port outer engine was rendered unserviceable and a portion of the aileron and wing were shot away. The aircraft temporarily went out of control, but Warrant Officer Walsh succeeded in levelling out and continued his bombing run. Despite great loss of height, this officer skilfully flew his crippled aircraft back to base and executed a safe landing. His example of courage and determination throughout was highly commendable.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1233515 Flight Sergeant Stanley Gordon BOYES, R.A.F.V.R., 49 Sqn.

This airman was the bomb aimer in an aircraft detailed to attack a target at Ladbergen. On the outward flight, engine trouble developed. Some airspeed was lost but the flight was continued. When nearing the Ruhr, the aircraft

was illuminated in a cone of searchlights and subjected to fire from the ground defences. Whilst taking the necessary evading action, the captain was taken suddenly ill and became unconscious. Acting with great promptitude, Flight Sergeant Boyes seized the control column and succeeded in pulling the aircraft out of its dive. Afterwards, he took the place of the stricken pilot. Though not as experienced as a regular pilot he flew the aircraft back to this country. By this time the pilot had recovered sufficiently to bring the aircraft down safely. Flight Sergeant Boyes set a fine example of skill, coolness and resource and was undoubtedly mainly responsible for the safe return of the aircraft.

1851549 Flight Sergeant Herbert Thomas Samuel JONES, R.A.F.V.R., 10 Sqn.

This airman was the wireless operator (air) in an aircraft detailed to attack Woms one night in February, 1945. Shortly after the target had been bombed, the aircraft was struck by a burst of machine-gun fire from an enemy fighter. A fire started in the fuselage. Although the aircraft was in a fairly steep dive, Flight Sergeant Jones turned his attention towards quelling the flames. After a strenuous effort he succeeded in so doing. The enemy fighter came in again, however, and inflicted further damage. Another fire commenced. This time it was impossible to extinguish the flames. The crew were forced to leave by parachute. Although he came down in enemy territory, Flight Sergeant Jones evaded capture and eventually arrived back in this country. This airman, who has participated in many sorties, has invariably displayed a high degree of skill, courage and devotion to duty.

Government House, Canberra, 15th June, 1945.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards with effect from 12th May, 1945, in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations in the South-West Pacific area:—

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenants.

Charles Ralph BULMAN (Aus.416145).
Robin Morton CORRIE (Aus.404170).
Norman William HASTIE (Aus.402706).
Walter Raymond MILLS (Aus.412170).

Flying Officers.

Thomas William ELLIS (Aus.420808).
Kenneth William SOUNNESS (Aus.427359).

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Flight Sergeant.

Aus.19191 Arthur Joseph SCHOLLES.

Air Ministry, 15th June, 1945.

The KING has granted unrestricted permission for the wearing of the undermentioned decorations conferred upon the officers indicated in recognition of valuable services rendered in connection with the war:—

CONFERRED BY THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT.

Croix de Guerre.

Acting Wing Commanders.

Walter Thomas BROOKS, D.S.O. (39932), R.A.F.O.
Frank Pritchard DAVIS, D.F.C. (78721), R.A.F.V.R.
Raymond Hiley HARRIES, D.S.O., D.F.C. (87447), R.A.F.V.R.
Donald Ernest KINGABY, D.S.O., D.F.M. (112046), R.A.F.V.R.

Acting Squadron Leader.

John Christopher WELLS, D.F.C. (45883), R.A.F.

CONFERRED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Legion of Merit (Degree of Officer).

Wing Commander.

Leonard Harold BARTLETT, D.S.O. (102959), R.A.F.V.R.