

these occasions is a fine tribute to his skill, courage and fortitude. This officer has rendered valuable service.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Frederick James LAWRENSON (Aus.412544), R.A.A.F., 450 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Lawrenson has completed a large number of sorties, during which he has attacked a variety of enemy targets, often in the face of heavy opposing fire. In December, 1944, he was detailed to attack a railway junction at Nervasa. As he dived to the attack his aircraft was hit by a shell which blew away the canopy above his head and smashed part of the windscreen around him. Flight Lieutenant Lawrenson was wounded in the face and his headphones and microphone were ripped away from his flying helmet. Undeterred, this resolute pilot pressed home his attack with great determination and accuracy. Although suffering severely from pain and, the cold, Flight Lieutenant Lawrenson flew the damaged aircraft a considerable distance to base and landed safely with the undercarriage retracted. This officer displayed a high degree of skill, courage and fortitude.

Captain Edwin SWALES (6101V), S.A.A.F., 582 Sqn.

This officer was pilot and captain of an aircraft detailed to attack Cologne in December, 1944. When approaching the target intense anti-aircraft fire was encountered. Despite this a good bombing attack was executed. Soon afterwards the aircraft was attacked by five enemy aircraft. In the ensuing fights, Captain Swales manoeuvred with great skill. As a result his gunners were able to bring effective fire to bear upon the attackers, one of which is believed to have been shot down. Throughout this spirited action Captain Swales displayed exceptional coolness and captaincy, setting a very fine example. This officer has completed very many sorties during which he has attacked a variety of enemy targets.

Flying Officer John Reginald BREWER (147935), R.A.F.V.R., 600 Sqn.

Flying Officer Garnett Wolsely JUDD (Aus.420957), R.A.A.F., 600 Sqn.

These officers have displayed outstanding keenness for air operations. As observer and pilot respectively they have completed a large number of sorties during which they have been responsible for the destruction of four enemy aircraft at night. They have displayed commendable skill and courage. In addition to his success with Flying Officer Judd, Flying Officer Brewer has shared in the destruction of one more enemy aircraft.

Flying Officer Gregory Donald CAMERON (Can/J.16336), R.C.A.F., 401 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Flying Officer Cameron has displayed a high standard of skill and resolution in air operations. He has participated in a large number of sorties during which he has shown the greatest keenness to engage the enemy. Flying Officer Cameron has destroyed four enemy aircraft, three of which he shot down within a few minutes in an engagement against a large force of fighters in January, 1945. Flying Officer Cameron has also attacked several locomotives and a number of mechanical vehicles with damaging effect.

Flying Officer William Henry CORNELIUS (176231), R.A.F.V.R., 156 Sqn.

In December, 1944, Flying Officer Cornelius was detailed to attack Coblenz. Whilst over the target his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and Flying Officer Cornelius was wounded in the leg. In spite of this he made two runs over the target to execute a successful attack. Although suffering considerable pain and weak through loss of blood, he flew his aircraft back to base where he landed it safely, despite poor visibility. Flying Officer Cornelius has completed numerous sorties and has invariably displayed commendable courage and determination.

Flying Officer John Wilburn GARLAND (Can/J 17155), R.C.A.F., 80 Sqn.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties, involving attacks on enemy targets in various battle areas. During these operations he has effectively attacked shipping, many mechanical vehicles and a number of locomotives and wagons; his successes also include the destruction of four enemy aircraft. Flying Officer Garland has proved himself to be a highly skilled, courageous and resolute fighter.

Flying Officer Robert Harold LAURENCE (Can/J.20602), R.C.A.F., 439 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has taken part in a large number of sorties and throughout has set a fine example of skill and determination in pressing home his attacks on various targets. In air fighting, Flying Officer Laurence has destroyed four enemy aircraft. He has rendered much valuable and devoted service.

Flying Officer William SAWERS (Can/J.14539), R.C.A.F., 414 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has displayed a high degree of skill and courage in his attacks on the enemy. In an engagement against a force of some ten enemy fighters in December, 1944, Flying Officer Sawers fought with great tenacity and shot down three of the enemy aircraft. This officer has taken part in very many sorties and throughout has shown the greatest keenness.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Warrant Officer Arnold Andreas Leslie ANDERSEN (Aus.426001), R.A.A.F., 582 Sqn.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

Aus.424485 Flight Sergeant John Grylls WATSON, R.A.A.F., 582 Sqn.

Warrant Officer Andersen and Flight Sergeant Watson were wireless operator and rear gunner respectively in an aircraft detailed to attack Cologne in December, 1944. When approaching the target the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and sustained some damage. On leaving the area, the bomber was engaged by ten fighters. In the face of persistent attacks, Flight Sergeant Watson displayed great coolness. His turret was not functioning properly and two of his guns were unserviceable. Nevertheless, he defended his aircraft with great resolution. Eventually, his turret was hit by a cannon shell. The windscreen was shattered. The intercommunication system was smashed. The turret doors became firmly jammed and Flight Sergeant Watson was trapped. Undeterred, he continued to fire at the enemy as best he could. Meantime, Warrant Officer Andersen had seen his comrade's plight and went to render assistance. It was a dangerous task as the pilot was taking violent evading action and the fuselage had suffered considerable damage. Nevertheless he negotiated a safe passage to the rear turret and extricated his comrade after forcing the turret doors with an axe. Soon afterwards it became necessary to leave the crippled aircraft by parachute. Had Warrant Officer Andersen not been successful the rear gunner would have had no hope of escape. In most distressing circumstances these crew members displayed cool courage and great determination.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1000028 Flight Sergeant Bryn LEACH, R.A.F.V.R., 582 Sqn.

This airman was the mid upper gunner of an aircraft detailed to attack Cologne in December, 1944. Soon after leaving the target, the aircraft was engaged by seven fighters. The rear gunner was unable to give his pilot any evading directions as that part of the intercommunication system connected to his turret was inoperative. Flight Sergeant Leach therefore assumed the responsibility and directed the necessary combat manoeuvres during constant attacks by the enemy aircraft. Although his aircraft was hit many times by the attacker's bullets, Flight Sergeant Leach fought with great resolution. One of the enemy aircraft fell to his guns, whilst in two instances the other fighters' attacks were rendered completely ineffective by his clever evading directions. Finally, the enemy aircraft broke off the engagement. Flight Sergeant Leach proved himself to be a cool and courageous member of aircraft crew. His excellent work contributed much towards the safe return of the aircraft.

1397347 Sergeant Joseph Arthur Augustine SKERRITT, R.A.F.V.R., 40 Sqn.

As air gunner, Sergeant Skerritt has completed a good number of sorties, many of them involving flights far into enemy territory. Throughout, he has displayed the highest standard of devotion to duty and has proved himself to be a most vigilant and reliable member of aircraft crew. One night in November, 1944, he took part in an attack on a railway target in Hungary. Whilst on the bombing run the aircraft was attacked by a fighter.