

Warrant Officer Sydney William HOLMES (Aus.422562), R.A.A.F., 454 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Since joining his squadron in November, 1944, Warrant Officer Holmes has completed numerous operational sorties against strongly-defended targets. One night in March, 1945, he was detailed for an armed reconnaissance. When near to Mestre, he encountered intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire. His aircraft was hit in the starboard engine and the bomb bay, resulting in the failure of the engine and the hydraulic gear. Displaying great determination and skill, this officer brought his crippled aircraft safely back to base where he executed a successful landing without the aid of ailerons or brakes. His example of courage and devotion to duty has impressed all.

Warrant Officer Douglas Haig MANN (N.Z.414316), R.N.Z.A.F., 489 (N.Z.) Sqn.

Since joining his squadron in May, 1944, Warrant Officer Mann has completed very many sorties, including numerous attacks on enemy shipping. He has at all times pressed home his attacks with great determination and has inflicted much damage on the enemy. The courage and determination shown by this airman have set a fine example to the squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant Geoffrey Cleugh CHAPMAN (120712), R.A.F.V.R., 85 Sqn.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1219665 Flight Sergeant James STOCKLEY, R.A.F.V.R., 85 Sqn.

As pilot and observer respectively, this officer and airman have participated in very many sorties. They have proved themselves to be highly skilled,

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

Can/R.187858 Flight Sergeant Robert Fairful UPCOTT, R.C.A.F., 101 Sqn.

In March, 1945, this airman piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Cologne. Intense enemy fire was encountered over the target and the bomber was hit in both the starboard engines. In spite of this, Flight Sergeant Upcott pressed home his attack. On the return journey the two damaged engines became completely unserviceable and it was necessary to feather the propellers. Despite these difficulties, Flight Sergeant Upcott brought his aircraft and crew safely back to base. Some days later, this airman made a successful attack on Essen despite the failure of one of his engines on the outward journey. His fine qualities of leadership, resolution and devotion to duty have been most praiseworthy.

2225144 Sergeant John CORNER, R.A.F.V.R., 101 Sqn.

In March, 1945, this airman was detailed on his first operational sortie as flight engineer. The target was Cologne. When over the target both the starboard engines were hit by enemy fire. Sergeant Corner immediately feathered the propellers of both engines. The starboard petrol tank selector cock wires had been severed which made it necessary for him to manipulate them by hand. When nearing base on the return journey he unfeathered the propeller of the starboard inner engine to build up brake pressure, but the engine immediately caught fire. When the aircraft had been landed he jumped on to the wing and, by means of an extinguisher, he subdued the flames of the burning engine. On this, his first operational mission, Sergeant Corner displayed the coolness of a veteran and his resourceful work contributed to the success of the sortie.