

R.A.F., No. 613 Sqn.—Since the invasion of Northern France, Wing Cdr. Newman has participated in very many sorties, involving attacks on a wide range of targets in the battle area. Throughout this officer has continued to display a high degree of skill and courage, qualities which have contributed much to the successes obtained.

Sqn. Ldr. H. J. DOWDING, D.F.C., R.C.A.F., No. 442 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.—This officer continues to display the highest standard of skill, courage and devotion to duty. His example has greatly inspired the squadron which, within a period of a few weeks has inflicted much loss on the enemy. More than 500 mechanical vehicles have been put out of action, many of them by Sqn. Ldr. Dowding. In addition this officer destroyed two of the 19 enemy aircraft which were shot down by the squadron during the period.

Act. Sqn. Ldr. D. H. DOVER, D.F.C. R.C.A.F., No. 412 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.—Sqn. Ldr. Dover, new on his second tour of operational duty, has proved an outstanding leader, both in the air and on the ground. His great skill, coolness and tactical ability have contributed materially to the success of the squadron which within a short period has put out of action some 528 enemy vehicles. In addition three enemy aircraft have been destroyed. By his outstanding keenness, iron determination and untiring devotion to duty, Sqn. Ldr. Dover has set a splendid example to all.

Act. Sqn. Ldr. W. J. JOHNSON, D.F.C., R.A.F.V.R., No. 257 Sqn.—This officer has participated in very many sorties since being awarded the D.F.C. He has led the squadron in many attacks on vital targets in support of our ground forces, including attacks on bridges, strong points and road and rail communications. Throughout he has displayed inspiring leadership, great courage and unswerving devotion to duty.

Act. Sqn. Ldr. W. LYLE, R.A.F., No. 226 Sqn.—Sqn. Ldr. Lyle has completed a large number of sorties, involving attacks on a variety of targets such as power stations, airfields, shipping and lines of communication. In July, 1944, whilst leading a formation of aircraft against an enemy target, heavy and accurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered. His aircraft was struck and sustained damage, and his navigator was wounded. Nevertheless, he continued with his task, and safely brought his formation to base without further incident. Sqn. Ldr. Lyle has consistently displayed great skill and devotion to duty.

Act. Sqn. Ldr. J. W. MURRAY, D.F.C. D.F.M., No. 21 Sqn.—This officer has completed many sorties on his third tour of operational duty, most of which have been attacks on rail and road transport in or near the battle area. He has displayed notable skill, and has invariably pressed home his attacks with great courage and determination. On more than one occasion his aircraft has been damaged by anti-aircraft fire, but he has completed his mission successfully.

Act. Sqn. Ldr. J. B. NIVEN, R.A.F.V.R., No. 485 (N.Z.) Sqn.—This officer is a highly efficient and zealous squadron commander. He has led his formation in many sorties and much loss, including the destruction of nine aircraft and a large number of mechanical vehicles, has been inflicted on the enemy. He is a brave and resourceful leader, whose tactical ability has played a good part in the good results obtained.

Flt. Lt. H. DAVIES, D.F.C., R.A.F.V.R., No. 175 Sqn.—Flt. Lt. Davies has commanded his flight in an exemplary manner. He has completed a very large number of sorties, involving attacks on flying bomb installations and radio buildings, railways, and a variety of other targets on the ground. He has invariably displayed a high standard of skill and courage, and throughout his devotion to duty has been unflagging.

Flt. Lt. W. T. KIERSY, D.F.C., R.C.A.F., No. 401 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.—This officer is a keen and courageous fighter. He has completed a large number of sorties, and his successes include the destruction of seven enemy aircraft and many mechanical vehicles. His example of determination and devotion to duty has been of a high order.

Flt. Lt. R. D. MATTOCK, D.F.C., R.A.F.V.R.—In October, 1944, Flt. Lt. Mattock was captain of an aircraft detailed to photograph the sea wall at West Kappelle shortly after the attack of the main bombing force. In the run-in his aircraft was hit in the tail by an anti-aircraft shell. Despite this, Flt. Lt. Mattock coolly continued his task. Although his aircraft was continually fired upon by the enemy's batteries, this resolute pilot spent much time over the target to secure excellent photographs. This officer has completed a large number of sorties, and has set a fine example of courage and devotion to duty.

Flt. Lt. A. E. C. WHEELER, D.F.C., R.A.F.V.R., No. 21 Sqn.—Flt. Lt. Wheeler has recently completed a second tour of operational duty. In the course of his assignments he has executed many successful attacks on enemy airfields, railways and road transport. He has at all times shown the greatest keenness, and his example of skill and tenacity has won great praise.

Act. Sqn. Ldr. W. A. THILSBACH, D.F.C., R.A.F.V.R., No. 405 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.—Sqn. Ldr. Thilbach has consistently maintained a high standard of zeal and efficiency as pilot, captain of aircraft and flight commander. He has completed many successful missions since the award of the D.F.C. and has always pressed home his attack with skill and determined vigour. His record is one of sustained endeavour.

Flt. Lt. G. L. P. DUNSTONE, D.F.C., R.A.F.V.R., No. 61 Sqn.—Since the award of the D.F.C. Flt. Lt. Dunstone has completed fifteen sorties on his third tour of operations. From December, 1943, he has been signals leader of his squadron, in which capacity he has set a splendid example to his section. In February, 1944, his aircraft was detailed to attack a target in Berlin. On the outward journey the rear gunner col-



FRONT-LINE WEAPON: Unloading an R.A.A.F. bulldozer on Morotai Island in the Halmahera group N.W. of New Guinea. During attacks on Japanese-held islands, these bulldozers frequently have to make airstrips only a mile or so from the front line.

lapsed. Although in an exhausted condition himself, this officer assisted in rendering first aid to the gunner. His skill, enthusiasm and courage in the face of the enemy merit high praise.

Flt. Lt. G. H. W. GLENN, D.F.C., R.A.F.V.R., No. 139 Sqn.—Flt. Lt. Glenn has completed a second tour of operational duty during which his aircraft attacked targets in Berlin seventeen times. He has proved himself a pilot of considerable ability, who has always displayed courage and devotion to duty of a high order. On more than one occasion he has flown his aircraft to a safe landing in this country after one engine had failed through enemy action while deep in German territory.

Flt. Lt. W. H. HILL, D.F.C., R.A.F., No. 640 Sqn.—Over a long period of operational flying, Flt. Lt. Hill has shown outstanding enthusiasm and devotion to duty of the highest order. An air bomber of great skill and determination, he has given valuable help and guidance to less experienced crews.

Flt. Lt. R. H. PHILLIPS, D.F.C., R.A.F.V.R., No. 571 Sqn.—Flt. Lt. Phillips has displayed qualities of captaincy and leadership of the highest order. Undeterred by the most difficult and hazardous circumstances, he has consistently set a fine example to all by his high courage and determination.

Flt. Lt. H. L. PLIMMER, D.F.C., R.A.F., No. 105 Sqn.—Since the award of the D.F.C. Flt. Lt. Plimmer has participated in numerous attacks on many vital targets. An efficient and skilful navigator, he has always shown outstanding qualities of determination, courage and fortitude under the most difficult circumstances.

Flt. Lt. R. H. SMITH, D.F.C., R.A.F.V.R., No. 692 Sqn.—Since the award of the D.F.C. this officer has participated in many further sorties on important German targets. He has consistently displayed resolution and courage of a high order and the successes achieved by his crew have been largely due to his skilful and accurate navigation under all conditions. Flt. Lt. Smith's continued determination and devotion to duty merit high commendation.

Act. Flt. Lt. W. S. BRECKENRIDGE, D.F.C., R.A.F.V.R., No. 626 Sqn.—Flt. Lt. Breckenridge has completed many operational sorties since the award of the D.F.C. On more than one occasion his aircraft has been damaged by enemy fighters and anti-aircraft fire. He has displayed consistently skilful pilotage, cool judgment and courage of the highest order. A fine leader and fearless captain, this officer has welded his crew into an outstanding fighting unit which is an example to the squadron.

Act. Flt. Lt. R. E. CROMPTON-BATT, D.F.C., R.A.F.V.R., No. 7 Sqn.—Since the award of the D.F.C. this officer has taken part in many more operational sorties. He is an excellent navigator, whose outstanding skill, fortitude and dogged determination have materially contributed to the successes achieved by his crew.

Act. Flt. Lt. G. A. A. HOWE, D.F.C., R.A.F.V.R., No. 7 Sqn.—Flt. Lt. Howe has made a very important contribution to his squadron's success. He has a fine record of operations. An outstanding air gunner, his skill and accuracy

have set a high example to all members of his squadron.

Act. Flt. Lt. J. E. TIPTON, D.F.C., R.A.F.V.R., No. 109 Sqn.—Flt. Lt. Tipton has proved himself a navigator of fine ability. He has completed his second successful operational tour. His work has called for courage and endurance of a high order and his fine record has earned him a reputation for accuracy and reliability.

Act. Flt. Lt. C. G. WHITEHEAD, D.F.C., R.A.F.V.R., No. 635 Sqn.—Since the award of the D.F.C. Flt. Lt. Whitehead has completed many operational sorties. His skill and accurate navigation have undoubtedly played a large part in the successes achieved by his crew. He has continued to display the utmost determination to operate against the enemy and unflinching devotion to duty, which have set a commendable example to all.

F/O R. A. MARSHALL, D.F.C., R.A.F.V.R., No. 619 Sqn.—F/O Marshall is now on his second operational tour. Since the award of the D.F.C. he has participated in many sorties which have required deep penetration into enemy territory. His accurate and skilful navigation has largely contributed to the success of the missions. As deputy navigation leader, he has spared no effort to increase the standard of navigation in his section with the resultant excellent record of his squadron. On one occasion in May, 1944, his aircraft was damaged by anti-aircraft fire and one engine failed. Although some of his equipment was rendered unserviceable, this officer ably navigated his bomber to the target. An effective attack was accomplished and the return flight to base safely completed.

W/O A. J. IRWIN, D.F.C., R.A.F.V.R., No. 582 Sqn.—Since being awarded the D.F.C., W/O Irwin has participated in many more operational sorties, the majority of which have been against important and heavily defended targets. An air gunner of outstanding keenness, he has always displayed a high standard of technical efficiency, skill and devotion to duty.

Act. Group Capt. R. J. LANE, D.S.O., D.F.C., R.C.A.F., No. 405 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.—Group Capt. Lane has completed many attacks on heavily defended targets in Germany. He has consistently displayed a fine fighting spirit throughout his operational career and has proved himself an officer of outstanding ability whose courage, cheerfulness and keen sense of duty have been an inspiration to his crews.

Act. Sqn. Ldr. M. W. PETTIT, D.F.C., R.C.A.F., No. 452 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.—Since the award of the D.F.C., Sqn. Ldr. Pettit has completed many attacks on heavily defended targets. He has displayed outstanding qualities of courage, skill and determination. His operational record during both of his tours has set an inspiring example to all the members of his squadron.

Flt. Lt. A. M. BEACH, D.F.C., R.C.A.F., No. 139 Sqn.—This officer has a long record of successful sorties against a variety of targets, including fifteen on Berlin. He has now completed a second tour of operational duty. On numerous occasions he has participated in attacks on heavily defended targets and secured valuable photographs. At all times an outstanding navigator, Flt. Lt. Beach has continued to show admirable keenness and devotion to duty.