

Tempy. Sub-Lieuts. (E) to be Tempy. Lieuts. (E) with seny. as stated:—

J. S. Belcher. 7th May 1940.

R. H. Bottomley. 24th May 1940.

T. Kehoe. 1st Apr. 1940.

Tempy. Paymr. Sub-Lieut. J. W. F. Crewdson to be Tempy. Paymr. Lieut. 28th Nov. 1939, and transferred to Executive Branch in rank of Tempy. Lieut. with seny. of 30th Mar. 1940.

Admiralty, 5th June, 1940.

R.M.

Tempy. 2nd Lt. R. Forrest, Commn. terminated. 5th June 1940.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S ROYAL NAVAL NURSING SERVICE.

Miss R. H. P. PEASE, Nursing Sister, has resigned, to date 28th June, 1940.

Air Ministry,

11th June, 1940.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to confer the Victoria Cross on the under-mentioned officer and non-commissioned officer, in recognition of most conspicuous bravery:—

Flying Officer Donald Edward GARLAND (40105).

563627 Sergeant Thomas GRAY.

Flying Officer Garland was the pilot and Sergeant Gray the observer of the leading aircraft of a formation of five aircraft that attacked a bridge over the Albert Canal which had not been destroyed and was allowing the enemy to advance into Belgium. All the air crews of the squadron concerned volunteered for the operation and, after five crews had been selected by drawing lots, the attack was delivered at low altitude against this vital target. Orders were issued that this bridge was to be destroyed at all costs. As had been anticipated, exceptionally intense machine gun and anti-aircraft fire was encountered, and the bridge area was heavily protected by enemy fighters. In spite of this the formation successfully delivered a dive bombing attack from the lowest practicable altitude and British fighters in the vicinity reported that the target was obscured by the bombs bursting on it and in its vicinity. Only one aircraft returned from this mission out of the five concerned. The pilot of this aircraft reports that in addition to the extremely heavy anti-aircraft fire, through which our aircraft dived to attack the objective, they were also attacked by a large number of enemy fighters after they had released their bombs on the target. Much of the success of this vital operation must be attributed to the formation leader; Flying Officer Garland,

and to the coolness and resource of Sergeant Gray, who navigated Flying Officer Garland's aircraft under most difficult conditions in such a manner that the whole formation was able successfully to attack the target in spite of subsequent heavy losses. Flying Officer Garland and Sergeant Gray unfortunately failed to return from the mission.

Air Ministry,

11th June, 1940.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the undermentioned appointment and awards, in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy:—

Appointed a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Flight Lieutenant James Anthony LEATHART (39625).

During May, 1940, this officer led his squadron on a large number of offensive patrols over Northern France. On one occasion an attack was made on a formation of no less than 60 enemy aircraft. In company with his squadron he has shot down fifteen Messerschmitts, and possibly one Heinkel III and one Junkers 88, during the period mentioned. He also flew a trainer aircraft to Calais Marck aerodrome to rescue a squadron commander who had been shot down there but was uninjured. Whilst taking off, after the rescue, an attack was made by twelve Messerschmitt 109's but with great coolness and skilful evasive tactics Flight Lieutenant Leathart succeeded in shaking off the enemy and landing again without damage. Subsequently, he took off and flew back to England unescorted. This officer has displayed great courage, determination and splendid leadership.

Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader George Campbell TOMLINSON (05214).

This officer has commanded a Squadron since November, 1939. He has led numerous interception and convoy patrols, and also two raids over Holland and one over Brussels. In these raids his squadron destroyed thirteen enemy aircraft and damaged a further nine. He himself, shot down one enemy aircraft and damaged another. On two occasions he was forced to land in the front lines, but by courageous endeavour he returned to his unit in both instances.

Flight Lieutenant Adolph Gysbert MALAN (37604).

During May, 1940, this officer has led his flight, and on certain occasions his squadron, on ten offensive patrols in Northern France. He has personally shot down two enemy aircraft and possibly three others. Flight Lieutenant Malan has displayed great skill, courage and relentless determination in his attacks on the enemy.