

*Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant Peter Wooldridge TOWNSEND (33178).

In April, 1940, whilst on patrol over the North Sea, Flight Lieutenant Townsend intercepted and attacked an enemy aircraft at dusk and after a running fight shot it down. This is the third success obtained by this pilot and in each instance he has displayed qualities of leadership, skill and determination of the highest order, with little regard for his own safety.

Flying Officer William Henry EDWARDS (40045).

In April, 1940, this officer was pilot of one of six aircraft which left to attack Stavanger aerodrome and seaplane base. The weather was so bad that five aircraft were compelled to abandon the task but Flying Officer Edwards succeeded in getting through, attacked the objectives and obtained valuable information. On the previous day he was pilot of one of twelve aircraft ordered to attack the same objectives. Despite a heavy snow storm, which forced him to fly very low, he reached the target and attacked it in the face of heavy anti-aircraft fire. When returning he attacked a Dornier seaplane with his guns and scored hits. On both days this officer displayed great skill and determination, and courage of a high order.

*Air Ministry,*

30th April, 1940.

## ROYAL AIR FORCE.

Air Vice-Marshal (acting Air Marshal) Richard Edmund Charles PEIRSE, C.B., D.S.O., A.F.C., is appointed Vice Chief of the Air Staff. 22nd Apr. 1940.

Air Vice-Marshal William Sholto DOUGLAS, M.C., D.F.C., is appointed Deputy Chief of the Air Staff vice Air Vice-Marshal (acting Air Marshal) Richard Edmund Charles PEIRSE, C.B., D.S.O., A.F.C. 22nd Apr. 1940.

Group Captain (acting Air Commodore) Robert Henry Magnus Spencer SAUNDBY, M.C., D.F.C., A.F.C., is appointed Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Operational Requirements and Tactics) vice Air Vice-Marshal William Sholto DOUGLAS, M.C., D.F.C., and is granted the acting rank of Air Vice-Marshal. 22nd Apr. 1940.

## GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

Anthony BILDERBECK (33535) is granted a permanent commission as Pilot Officer on probation. 11th Apr. 1940.

The undermentioned are granted permanent commissions in the substantive ranks stated and on the dates stated:—

19th Feb. 1940.

Flight Lieutenant Alan Douglas GROOM (37075).

16th Mar. 1940.

Squadron Leader Patrick Henry Ridley SAUNDERS (34179).

Flight Lieutenant (temporary Squadron Leader) Henry de Clifford Anthony WOODHOUSE (34189).

Flight Lieutenant Richard John Courtney NEDWILL (34169).

The undermentioned are granted commissions for the duration of hostilities as Pilot Officer on probation on the dates stated:—

## Flight Sergeants.

1st Apr. 1940.

365168 Frank Michael BIDDULPH (43056).

560534 Henry Desmond BISLEY (43057).

590523 Ernest Bertie COOK (43060).

561700 Edward John CUTLER (43061).

342580 John Morris EDWARDS (43063).

580172 Robert William FERGUSON (43064).

364639 Eric Harrison FRANCIS (43065).

590215 Ernest George FRASER (43066).

561877 Thomas POUNTNEY (43072).

560689 Donald William SCIVIER (43073).

561911 Gerald Seabrook SMITH (43074).

565775 Arthur William SOUTHALL (43075).

363497 Reginald George WILLIAMS (43077).

364341 Edward WOMPHREY (43079).

365026 Alfred Lionel WOODE (43080).

## Temporary Flight Sergeant.

1st Apr. 1940.

513764 Robert Whitworth BROWN (43058).

## Sergeants.

21st Feb. 1940.

590405 Henry George BATTEN (43054).

1st Apr. 1940.

563704 John Merritt BUSHELL (43059).

590376 Frederick Ernest William DEAN (43062).

563447 Harold Raymond GUNN (43067).

564676 Harry John HARTLAND (43068).

590566 Thomas Shield KITCHING (43069).

566035 Alfred Stanley KNOWLES (43070).

560178 Robert MAUN (43071).

565013 Francis Adrian Burdett TAMS (43076).

565811 William Dudley WINWARD (43078).

514078 Clifford WRIGHT (43081).

## Leading Aircraftmen.

17th Jan. 1940.

550138 Cyril Stanley WEST (43054).

17th Mar. 1940.

581599 Vincent Dennis FRY (43055).

The undermentioned are granted short service commissions as Pilot Officers for five years on the active list. 9th Apr. 1940:—

Neville Halsey ANDREW (36252).

Ivan Herbert AULIFF (36253).

Matthew John Alexander KIRDY (36254).

Roy John Alexander LESLIE (36255).

Ronald Stanley MAGEE (36256).

Athol Gordon MCINTYRE (36257).

Robert James NEAL (36258).

William Baker PARKER (36259).

Jack Batt PATERSON (36260).

Nathaniel PATERSON (36261).

Walter RAYMOND (36262).

Michael Lomax STEDMAN (36263).

Basil Percy THOMSON (36264).