

displayed a high standard of courage and devotion to duty. One morning he attacked two enemy aircraft and brought both down. His own aircraft received many hits but he successfully brought it back to the aerodrome. On the afternoon of the next day, with six other aircraft of his squadron, he engaged more than 40 enemy aircraft. He showed conspicuous gallantry and dash in driving off the enemy single seaters and shot down two enemy aircraft. His own engine was hit and he was forced down. Showing great coolness, he landed carefully and avoided injuries to personnel.

513884 Sergeant Edward Nelson ODELL.

550950 Corporal Robert Tod TOMLINSON.

These airmen acted as air observer and wireless operator-air gunner respectively in an aircraft piloted by Flight Lieutenant Simpson engaged on a low level bombing attack on enemy troops and convoys. After the attack a petrol leak compelled a forced landing, and the aircraft caught fire. These airmen, without thought for their own safety, immediately went to the aid of the pilot (who was enveloped in flames) and pulled him clear of the aircraft which afterwards exploded. Valuable photographs of the bombing and convoy were obtained by Corporal Tomlinson.

513735 Sergeant James Reginald PAINE.

In May, 1940, this airman was the air observer of an aircraft of a formation of nine aircraft detailed to carry out a dive bombing attack on a convoy of advancing enemy ground forces on the Belgian frontier. After bombing, the aircraft was engaged in a running fight with four enemy fighters during which the air gunner was severely wounded. Sergeant Paine immediately crawled through the fuselage, which necessitated removing his flying clothing and parachute, thereby sacrificing a chance of escape if compelled to abandon his aircraft, and succeeded in extricating the wounded air gunner from his cockpit. He then proceeded to operate the rear gun, causing the enemy to break off the attack. He subsequently assisted his wounded comrade, after which he returned to his own cockpit and assisted in the navigation of the aircraft. Sergeant Paine's prompt action probably saved the aircraft from being shot down.

561369 Sergeant Arthur Nathan SPEAR.

In May, 1940, this airman was engaged in bombing operations against the enemy and, after successfully dropping his bombs, he was attacked by a number of Messerschmitts, the tail of his aircraft being shot away. He ordered his crew to abandon the aircraft and was himself thrown out whilst preparing to jump, but he landed by parachute in enemy territory. He was repeatedly under enemy fire but, securing a horse, he succeeded by sheer determination in overcoming many difficulties, including the swimming of a canal, and later returned safely to his unit.

563289 Sergeant Herbert WATHEY.

This airman was air gunner and observer in an aircraft engaged in an attack on a target at Gladbach-Rheydt on a night in May,

1940. Although the aircraft was hit at least five times and severely damaged, one engine being stopped and the rudder controls shot away, he continued firing his gun on enemy searchlights and succeeded in putting two of them out of action. When the aircraft was almost unmanageable he assisted the pilot to keep a straight course. His coolness and courage materially assisted a flight of over 100 miles to a place in friendly territory where the crew could abandon the aircraft.

564450 Sergeant Royce Clifford WILKINSON.

This airman pilot has shot down five enemy aircraft and has displayed a very fine offensive spirit, coupled with a sense of resolute leadership.

523203 Corporal Ronald JOLLY.

This airman was the wireless operator and air gunner of an aircraft engaged in an attack on a target at Gladbach-Rheydt on a night in May, 1940. The aircraft was severely damaged by anti-aircraft fire, which stopped one engine and shot away the rudder controls, but Corporal Jolly maintained wireless communication and obtained positions to assist the pilot and navigator. On reaching friendly territory after a flight of over 100 miles, the pilot gave an order to abandon the aircraft, and Corporal Jolly then destroyed the aircraft's papers, locked the wireless telegraph key, and leaving the transmitter switched on, jumped from the aircraft at a very low altitude. His coolness and efficiency throughout materially assisted in preventing the aircraft from falling in the hands of the enemy.

551530 Leading Aircraftman Lionel Harvey LIGHTFOOT.

In May, 1940, this airman was the air gunner of an aircraft engaged in bombing operations against troops and armoured fighting vehicles. After completing the task the aircraft was attacked by a Messerschmitt 109, and Leading Aircraftman Lightfoot was wounded in the right shoulder and the gun turret was damaged. In spite of this, he displayed the greatest coolness and skill and succeeded in bringing accurate fire to bear on the enemy aircraft which was afterwards seen to dive into the ground.

612426 Aircraftman 1st Class Gordon Nelson PATTERSON.

This airman volunteered for duty as wireless operator-air gunner in the aircraft piloted by Pilot Officer Davy in a low level bombing attack on bridges over the Albert Canal in May, 1940. Intense opposition from the ground was met and two attacks by enemy fighters were countered by this airman but, as the port petrol tank appeared to be on fire, the pilot ordered the crew to abandon the aircraft and Aircraftman Patterson sustained injuries.

*Awarded a Bar to the Distinguished Flying Medal.*

752051 Sergeant Alfred Henry Basil FRIENDSHIP, D.F.M.

This airman pilot continued to display a very high standard of morale and recently brought down three enemy aircraft bringing