

aircraft. The destruction of the last one of the three aircraft occasioned a long chase over enemy territory. On his return flight he used his remaining ammunition, and caused many casualties, in a low flying attack on a railway along which the enemy was bringing up heavy guns. Pilot Officer McKnight has shown exceptional skill and courage as a fighter pilot.

Pilot Officer Phillip Walford PETERS (42259).

In June, 1940, near Dunkerque, this officer was pilot of an aircraft which, in company with two others, was attacked by nine Messerschmitt 109's. Pilot Officer Peters immediately turned to the attack and so skilfully manoeuvred his aircraft, that he and both the air gunner and navigator were enabled to concentrate their fire on the enemy. Two Messerschmitts were seen to crash, and two more appeared to be seriously damaged. After the engagement this officer continued to carry out the patrol alone, having lost touch with the other two aircraft which had returned to the base.

*Awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.*

563441 Sergeant Samuel Leslie BUTTERFIELD.

One day in May, 1940, this airman was on patrol in company with his squadron, when some fifty or more enemy aircraft were sighted. During the engagement which ensued, he shot down two Messerschmitt 109's in quick succession. He then successfully attacked a Junkers 88, which fell into the sea. He was immediately attacked himself, by a Messerschmitt 110, and his aircraft was hit by a cannon shell, but by skilful manoeuvring and accurate shooting, he destroyed the enemy fighter. With his ammunition now expended, he set course for home but was again attacked and hit by three more cannon shells, which set his aircraft on fire. Sergeant Butterfield escaped by parachute and was picked up by a passing vessel. Throughout the engagement, though greatly outnumbered, this airman displayed great courage, outstanding initiative and determination.

561615 Sergeant Charles David PERRY.

In May, 1940, during a low flying attack against the enemy, Sergeant Perry was seriously wounded in the thigh and stomach by two bullets. He showed great courage and stamina in piloting his aircraft to the vicinity of his base and then, finding himself about to faint, he made a forced landing.

740155 Sergeant Deryk Cobham SPENCER.

812071 Acting Corporal Lewis George SMITH.

In June, 1940, these airmen were respectively navigator and air gunner of an aircraft which, in company with two others, were attacked by nine Messerschmitt 109's. Although the pilot was taking violent avoiding action, these airmen, showing skill and coolness, each destroyed a Messerschmitt 109 and severely damaged another.

562610 Sergeant Edward Rowland THORN.

747751 Leading Aircraftman Frederick James BARKER.

Sergeant Thorn and Leading Aircraftman Barker, as pilot and air gunner respectively, have shown considerable determination and

skill when engaging the enemy in a Defiant aircraft. On one occasion, when three similar aircraft in their squadron had been shot down, these airmen engaged three Messerschmitt 109's which were operating on the rear of the squadron, and succeeded in shooting them down. The remaining enemy aircraft were forced to break off the engagement. Sergeant Thorn and Leading Aircraftman Barker have so far destroyed six enemy aircraft.

348030 Acting Corporal Albert LIPPETT.

This airman was air gunner in the aircraft piloted by Flight Lieutenant N. G. Cooke on the occasion when he destroyed eight enemy aircraft in the course of two patrols during one day. By his coolness and good shooting he shares the credit of this achievement.

552214 Leading Aircraftman Walter Denis CAULFIELD.

In May, 1940, this airman was the air gunner in the aircraft of his flight commander which, in a formation of three, was attacked by eleven Messerschmitt 109's. Leading Aircraftman Caulfield maintained a steady and accurate fire, and severely damaged at least one enemy aircraft. He has gained the complete confidence of his pilot. During the past few weeks he has taken part in night bombing operations, reconnaissance and offensive patrols, and has displayed qualities of alertness and steadiness, with complete disregard for his own safety.

812142 Leading Aircraftman Frederick Stephen CUNNINGHAM.

In May, 1940, whilst wireless operator in one of three aircraft engaged in a patrol off Dunkerque, an attack was made by nine Messerschmitt 109's and this airman was shot in the foot. In spite of the great pain, he continued to carry out his duties by passing messages reporting a sinking destroyer. He refused morphia, so that he might retain the full use of his faculties until his services were no longer required.

523495 Leading Aircraftman Leslie Stewart DILLNUTT.

In May, 1940, this airman was the air gunner in one of a flight of three aircraft, which were attacked by nine Messerschmitt 109's, near Zeebrugge. Although the pilot was taken violent evasive action, Leading Aircraftman Dillnutt retained his coolness and used his gun with such skill that he shot down one Messerschmitt 109 and possibly damaged two others.

523270 Leading Aircraftman Kenneth Stirling FREEMAN.

In May, 1940, this airman was the wireless operator in one of a flight of three aircraft. When engaged in combat with eleven Messerschmitt 109's he immediately left his wireless set and manned one of the side Lewis guns. A cannon shell struck the aircraft, and Leading Aircraftman Freeman was wounded in the leg in two places. Despite this he carried on firing his gun, and the accurate fire of the whole flight forced the enemy to withdraw. This airman has shown steadiness and complete disregard for danger.