

the centre of the factory and, in spite of intense opposition, he decided not to bomb but to make a fresh attack. This was made from 2,000 feet and direct hits by all bombs were made on the main buildings which immediately commenced to burn furiously. Following aircraft were thereby enabled to locate and bomb the target. This officer displayed gallantry of a high order.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Edward Brian Bretherton SMITH (90340), Auxiliary Air Force.

This officer has led his flight with great success; twenty-five enemy aircraft have been destroyed since June, 1940. One day in August he led the flight almost to the French coast to attack two enemy aircraft flying over the Channel. Despite strong opposition an enemy seaplane was damaged and, whilst on the return journey, another aircraft was attacked and damaged. Flight Lieutenant Smith was the only member of his section to return from these engagements. The next day, he was involved in an attack by twelve or more Messerschmitt 109's. His aircraft was hit by two shells, damage being inflicted near the cockpit and petrol tanks. His aircraft eventually caught fire and, although he himself was enveloped in flames, he successfully abandoned his aircraft and was rescued about eight miles out to sea. Flight Lieutenant Smith has now destroyed six enemy aircraft. He has displayed great courage and leadership.

Acting Flight Lieutenant John Terrance WEBSTER (37436).

Flight Lieutenant Webster has led his flight in innumerable offensive patrols during the latter part of the Dunkirk operations and during the intensive air fighting over the English Channel and Dover area in protection of shipping. With great skill and gallantry he has personally destroyed seven enemy aircraft and assisted in the destruction of two others. One day in August, 1940, he and another pilot of his section engaged considerably superior numbers of enemy fighters. Three were destroyed by this officer. Not content with this, he also attacked an enemy motor torpedo boat with considerable success. His faculty for seeking out and engaging the enemy has been outstanding.

Flying Officer Carl Raymond DAVIS (90131), Auxiliary Air Force.

Flying officer Davis has been engaged on operational flying since 3rd September, 1939. He has taken part in nearly all patrols and interceptions carried out by his squadron. He has been a section leader for the last two months, and on several occasions has led his flight. Flying Officer Davis has personally destroyed six enemy aircraft, and severely damaged several others. He has shown great keenness and courage.

Flying Officer Anthony EYRE (90406), Auxiliary Air Force.

This officer has shot down seven enemy aircraft, and inflicted damage on several others. Whilst on service in France, he showed eagerness to fly on all occasions and during the winter his flying times exceeded fifty hours monthly. During the evacuation from France, Flying Officer Eyre was en-

trusted with an important message from England to France and successfully completed this mission, which required great coolness and presence of mind. He has at all times shown great devotion to duty.

Flying Officer John Bernard William HUMPHERSON (39317).

This officer has led his section, and on occasions his flight, with great skill. During operations in France he destroyed two enemy aircraft and possibly another three. Since returning to England he has destroyed a further four enemy aircraft. He has displayed courage and initiative and has proved an excellent leader.

Flying Officer Richard Maxwell MILNE (40129).

Flying Officer Milne has personally destroyed seven enemy aircraft, and seriously damaged a number of others. He has led his section throughout with skill and courage, and has set an example to other members of the squadron.

Flying Officer Rupert Frederick SMYTHE (40436).

In July, 1940, this officer, whilst leading his section, broke up a formation of six Messerschmitt 109's near Folkestone, and succeeded in destroying one. Flying Officer Smythe has destroyed six enemy aircraft. He has displayed great courage and set an excellent example to all.

Pilot Officer Peter Melvill GARDNER (40527).

During a short time in France this officer succeeded in destroying four enemy aircraft. Since returning to this country he has destroyed a further five enemy aircraft and possibly several others. He has displayed great keenness and courage.

Pilot Officer John Albert Axel GIBSON (40969).

In August, whilst on an offensive patrol over Dover this officer engaged and destroyed a Junkers 87 and was afterwards shot down himself. Although his aircraft was in flames he steered it away from the town of Folkestone and did not abandon the aircraft until it had descended to 1,000 feet. Pilot Officer Gibson has destroyed eight enemy aircraft, and has displayed great courage and presence of mind.

Pilot Officer James Eric STORRAR (41881).

This officer took part in the intensive fighting over Dunkirk last May, and has since been engaged in numerous successful actions. His squadron was responsible for the destruction of twenty-one enemy aircraft in one day; he personally destroyed two of these. Pilot Officer Storrar has displayed an unflinching desire to engage the enemy at all times and has shot down eight enemy aircraft.

Pilot Officer Archibald Nigel Charles WEIR (73593), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

This officer took part in the intensive fighting over Dunkirk last May, and has since played a highly successful part in numerous engagements over the Channel. Pilot Officer Weir has shown an intense desire to engage the enemy and has destroyed at least five enemy aircraft, three of these in the course of a single day.