

spite of the serious condition of his aircraft, and the continuous gunfire, he made a second attack and dropped his bombs with success. On the return flight, with his wireless apparatus smashed, the damaged engine failed whilst still over France, but with splendid determination he managed to cross the sea and made a forced landing on the English coast without causing injury to his crew. Pilot Officer De Mestre has many times pressed home his attacks on the enemy with equal courage and determination.

Pilot Officer Michael James HERRICK (33566).

During an interception patrol on the night of 4th September, 1940, Pilot Officer Herrick sighted two enemy aircraft and destroyed them both. In his attack against the second aircraft he succeeded in closing to within thirty yards and it fell in pieces under his fire.

Pilot Officer Kenneth JONES (40714).

This officer was pilot and captain of an aircraft detailed to make a low-level attack on warships at Wilhelmshaven Harbour one night in July, 1940. He delivered his attack in the face of a tremendous barrage of fire from all the defences. Pilot Officer Jones has shown conspicuous courage and devotion to duty on many previous occasions and has always pressed home his attacks with the same determination.

Pilot Officer James Joseph O'MEARA (40844).

Pilot Officer O'Meara has displayed a very high degree of skill and devotion to duty in all operations against the enemy and has destroyed at least six enemy aircraft. His example and keenness have been outstanding.

Pilot Officer Donald Stuart SCOTT (40569).

Pilot Officer Scott has destroyed five enemy aircraft and severely damaged three others. He has flown with his squadron continuously over a considerable period and has displayed great gallantry at all times.

*Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Pilot Officer Nigel BICKNELL (73041), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

*Awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.*

581329 Sergeant William Broughton GINGELL.

In August, 1940, Pilot Officer Bicknell was the pilot and Sergeant Gingell the observer, of an aircraft detailed to carry out a night attack on Antwerp Aerodrome. As the aircraft reached the Dutch coast the port engine failed, and Pilot Officer Bicknell therefore decided to abandon his original target and bomb Haamsted aerodrome; this was located by Sergeant Gingell and successfully attacked from 5,000 feet. On the return journey, just before reaching the coast, the aircraft commenced to lose height, and in spite of the efforts of the crew it became necessary to make a forced landing in a rough sea close to a trawler. The pilot and observer forced their way out of the aircraft and made repeated but unsuccessful attempts to extricate the unconscious air gunner before the aircraft sank. Some thirty minutes later, the pilot, who was suffering from head injuries, and the unconscious observer were picked up by the trawler. Pilot Officer Bicknell displayed great determination in pressing home an

alternative attack, after one of his engines had failed, and both he and Sergeant Gingell showed great courage in endeavouring to free the unconscious air gunner.

*Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Pilot Officer Alexander Herbert GOULD (40692).

*Awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.*

743018 Sergeant John Fleming COWAN, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

635808 Sergeant Richard BONSON.

Pilot Officer Gould was the pilot, Sergeant Cowan the navigator and bomb aimer, and Sergeant Bonson the wireless operator air gunner, of an aircraft detailed to carry out a very low altitude attack on warships in Wilhelmshaven Harbour one night in July, 1940. The attack was carried out in the face of a terrific barrage of anti-aircraft fire. On many previous occasions Pilot Officer Gould has shown conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty and has always pressed home his attacks in the same fearless manner, while Sergeants Cowan and Bonson have contributed largely to the success of the attacks and have displayed great courage and skill in the face of enemy opposition often in severe weather conditions.

*Awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.*

561329 Flight Sergeant John Frederick CLAYTON.

563523 Sergeant John Christopher CHESTER.

One night in August, 1940, Flight Sergeant Clayton was captain and Sergeant Chester navigator and bomb aimer of an aircraft detailed to attack an objective in Berlin. Difficult conditions and dense cloud were encountered on the entire journey. The adverse weather conditions, combined with searchlights and anti-aircraft fire, made recognition of the original objective temporarily impossible, and the available fuel did not permit of their waiting for the clouds to clear. With great skill and determination Flight Sergeant Clayton and his navigator located an alternative target—an aircraft factory—and despite intense opposition, direct hits were obtained from a low altitude on the largest buildings. These were seen to disintegrate and catch fire. By their courageous and determined action Flight Sergeant Clayton and Sergeant Chester have set a fine example of devotion to duty.

700102 Sergeant Oswald Arthur DUPEE, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

517215 Sergeant Thomas Henry BANISTER.

Sergeant Dupee and Sergeant Banister were the pilot and air gunner respectively, in an aircraft which attacked a Heinkel IIIK. Shortly after commencing the attack the return fire from the enemy aircraft ceased, but as Sergeant Dupee was about to continue his attack at short range the Heinkel's dorsal gun again opened fire severely wounding him in the arm and causing damage to his aircraft. Sergeant Banister thereupon crawled forward, assisted Sergeant Dupee from his seat and took control of the aircraft. Despite failing strength, through loss of blood, Sergeant Dupee gave directions to Sergeant Banister who, although untrained as a pilot, was enabled to fly the aircraft until compelled to force land. This was carried out on a