

by his action in remaining and successfully extinguishing the fire under conditions of the greatest danger and difficulty, enabled the pilot to bring the aircraft safely to its base.

Air Ministry,
1st October, 1940.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the undermentioned appointment and awards in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy:—

Appointed a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Squadron Leader Douglas Robert Stewart **BADER** (26151).

This officer has displayed gallantry and leadership of the highest order. During three recent engagements he has led his squadron with such skill and ability that thirty-three enemy aircraft have been destroyed. In the course of these engagements Squadron Leader Bader has added to his previous successes by destroying six enemy aircraft.

Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commander David Wilson **REID** (32062).

One night in September, 1940, this officer successfully carried out a dive-bombing attack on an assembly of barges in Ostend Harbour. On arrival over the target area, he made reconnaissance runs at an altitude of 1,000 feet, during which he carefully selected the most vital parts to attack. He then climbed to 6,000 feet and made a dive attack to 500 feet, and obtained direct hits on the target with a stick of eight 250-lb. bombs. During the preliminary runs and the attack intense anti-aircraft fire seriously damaged his aircraft affecting its controls and shattering the pilot's compass and the rear gun hatches. Despite these difficulties Wing Commander Reid pressed home his attack with great determination, courage and skill, showing complete disregard for his personal safety.

Squadron Leader Ronald Gustave **KELLETT** (90082), Auxiliary Air Force.

By his excellent example and personality this officer has been largely responsible for the success of his squadron which in one week destroyed thirty-three enemy aircraft, of which Squadron Leader Kellett has destroyed three. His leadership and determination in attacking superior numbers of enemy aircraft have instilled the greatest confidence in the other pilots of his squadron.

Squadron Leader David Alwyne **PEMBERTON** (33036).

This officer has displayed outstanding leadership since the return of his squadron from France. He has led the squadron on almost every operation during which time it has destroyed or damaged fifty-one enemy aircraft. His qualities of leadership and personal example have contributed largely to these successes.

Acting Squadron Leader William Steven **GARDNER** (37457).

One night in September, 1940, this officer successfully pressed home an attack, from 800 feet, on a concentration of barges in Ostend Harbour. During the preliminary reconnaissance of the target area and the bombing attack, the aircraft was subjected to intense and accurate anti-aircraft and tracer fire, but despite this opposition Squadron Leader Gardner obtained eight direct hits on the target. In pressing home his attack this officer displayed splendid qualities of determination, courage and skill, and his example and leadership have had an excellent effect on the squadron as a whole.

Acting Squadron Leader Sir Archibald Philip **HOPE** (90127), Auxiliary Air Force.

This officer has completed 107 operational flights since the commencement of hostilities. He has destroyed four enemy aircraft and shared in the destruction of others. He has displayed outstanding leadership and set an excellent example to all.

Acting Squadron Leader Alexander Vallance Riddell **JOHNSTONE** (90163), Auxiliary Air Force.

This officer has proved himself to be a leader of ability and determination and has been mainly responsible for the high standard of morale in his squadron. He has destroyed four enemy aircraft of which one was shot down at night.

Flight Lieutenant Edward John **GRACIE** (29090), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

This officer has destroyed seven enemy aircraft and damaged another five. By his outstanding leadership, skill and courage, he has proved an excellent example to all.

Acting Flight Lieutenant George Eric **BALL** (39842).

This officer has destroyed five enemy aircraft. He pursued one of these at night for fifty miles before shooting it down. His excellent leadership has instilled great confidence in his flight.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Percy Stevenson **WEAVER** (70719), Missing, believed killed.

This officer has displayed great courage and leadership. He has destroyed six enemy aircraft. His excellent example has contributed materially to the fine standard that exists in his Squadron.

Flying Officer Count Manfred Beckett **CZERNIN** (37148).

This officer has displayed great keenness in his desire to engage the enemy, and has destroyed nine of their aircraft. In August, 1940, he led his section in a head-on attack on large formations of enemy aircraft, destroying three of them.

Flying Officer Jerrard **JEFFRIES** (39286).

This officer has led his flight with skill and gallantry. His determined leadership and skilled training have contributed largely to the success of his squadron. He has destroyed four enemy aircraft and severely damaged another two.