

aircraft, of which five have been shot down within the last two weeks. He has shown outstanding leadership throughout.

Pilot Officer John Alan BARKE (43637).

This officer has taken part in 25 raids during the past two months on each of which he has shown marked courage and determination. When carrying out a reconnaissance, he was intercepted by enemy fighters and had the petrol and oil tanks of his aircraft pierced and his rear gun put out of action. By most skilful flying and the display of great courage and determination he out-maneuvred the enemy and landed at his base with only one engine running, thus undoubtedly saving the lives of his crew. His conspicuous gallantry has at all times set a fine example to the other flying personnel.

Pilot Officer Walter BEAUMONT (76308), (now missing), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

This officer has displayed great skill and determination in air combat against the enemy and has destroyed six of their aircraft.

Pilot Officer Robert Francis Thomas DOE (41908).

Pilot Officer Doe has displayed great courage in the many patrols undertaken by his squadron and has destroyed nine enemy aircraft. He has shown outstanding dash and an eagerness to engage the enemy at close quarters.

Pilot Officer Dudley Trevor JAY (42063).

This officer has participated in numerous engagements against the enemy in France, and later in England, and has destroyed eight of their aircraft besides damaging several more. He has displayed great courage and a keen desire to engage the enemy on all occasions.

Pilot Officer Kenneth Norman Thomson LEE (72998), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

This officer has led his section and flight with marked success. He has displayed great dash and determination and has destroyed at least six enemy aircraft.

Pilot Officer Keith Temple LOFTS (90483), Auxiliary Air Force.

This officer has participated in numerous engagements against the enemy in Belgium, France and England. He has displayed great determination and coolness and has destroyed eight enemy aircraft.

Pilot Officer Constantine Oliver Joseph PEGGE (41317).

Since July, 1940, this officer has destroyed seven enemy aircraft. His great skill and initiative in air combat were particularly shown on one occasion when, although wounded in the eye, his aircraft damaged and the windscreen rendered opaque by bullets, he brought his aircraft back to base and made a successful landing. He has proved a fearless fighter when attacking superior numbers of enemy aircraft.

Pilot Officer Peter Lawrence PARROTT (41054).

This officer has been continuously engaged in operational flights against the enemy since January, 1940. He has displayed great determination and keenness and has destroyed or severely damaged at least six hostile aircraft.

Pilot Officer Allen Richard WRIGHT (33499).

One night in August, 1940, this officer displayed great determination and skill in destroying a Heinkel III, under difficult conditions. Pilot Officer Wright has consistently shown a keen desire to engage the enemy on all occasions. He has brought down a total of four enemy aircraft and has badly damaged four more.

Major Robert Henning PRELLER, South African Air Force.

While carrying out a reconnaissance and attacking an enemy aircraft on the ground, Major Preller was shot down in the desert in enemy territory 70 miles from the border. He destroyed his aircraft and proceeded to walk to British territory accompanied by his crew of two who eventually became exhausted. He left them at a water hole and proceeded alone to seek aid. After 14 days, having suffered terrible hardships through lack of water and food, he made contact with British forces, and was able to give directions which led to the rescue of his crew and the recovery of a very valuable exposed film of enemy military objectives. This officer has shown marked determination in individual operations, and in leading his squadron he has imbued them with his own fighting spirit to a remarkable degree.

*Awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.*

564749 Flight Sergeant Percy Frederick MORFILL.

This airman has displayed great skill and coolness in his attacks against the enemy. His fine attacking qualities have enabled him to destroy at least seven of their aircraft.

505650 Sergeant Francis BAVIN-SMITH.

Sergeant Bavin-Smith has taken part in numerous raids over enemy territory, successfully navigating the formation, controlling the fire of less experienced air gunners and taking photographs of targets often under intense fire. In June, 1940, during a raid on enemy positions, when this airman was observer in the leader's aircraft, despite being attacked by four enemy fighters, Sergeant Bavin-Smith rapidly produced the requisite course, and enabled the formation to withdraw without loss. Two fighters were shot down in the engagement. He is cool, level headed and courageous, and his determination has inspired the other air gunners in his squadron to maintain their high standard of morale.

740502 Sergeant John Maurice Bentley BEARD, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Sergeant Beard has displayed great courage and coolness in his engagements against the enemy. This was particularly shown on one occasion in September, 1940, when, by cool tactics, he destroyed two Messerschmitt 109's which attacked him from the rear, whilst he was pursuing an enemy bomber. He has destroyed a total of five enemy aircraft.

810021 Sergeant Horatio Herbert CHANDLER, Auxiliary Air Force.

This airman has been continuously engaged in operations against the enemy since April, 1940, and has destroyed six of their aircraft. He has displayed courage, skill and determination.