

Pilot Officer Louis Patrick MASSEY (84686)—  
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve—No. 61  
Squadron.

Late in October, 1940, this officer was captain of a bomber aircraft engaged in a search for an aircraft believed to be down in the North Sea, when a Heinkel 115 was attacked and shot down. It was due to his initiative and skill in handling his aircraft that Pilot Officer Massey was able to press home his attack. In all of his 33 operational flights he has shown an admirable combination of courage and determination.

*Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Pilot Officer Eric PLUMTREE (83716), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve—No. 53 Squadron.

*Awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.*

755740 Sergeant Peter Merridith KINSEY, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve—No. 53 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Plumtree was the pilot and Sergeant Kinsey the air gunner of an aircraft detailed to test a new type of bomb sight during a patrol over the North Sea. At the far end of the patrol, sixteen enemy vessels were sighted, eight within the harbour of an enemy port and eight outside. Pilot Officer Plumtree dived from 3,000 to 800 feet to attack the vessels in the harbour in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire. Whilst making his escape he attacked an army camp with machine-gun fire at almost ground level, and then climbed to seek cloud cover out at sea. At this point an attack was made by three Messerschmitts, which riddled the aircraft with bullets and shells and wounded all members of the crew. Sergeant Kinsey held off the enemy and forced one to break off the engagement. Keeping his pilot informed of the position, he operated his gun until the other two were lost in the clouds. In spite of injuries, Pilot Officer Plumtree then brought the aircraft safely back to an aerodrome in England.

*Air Ministry.*

12th November, 1940.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

Air Vice-Marshal (temporary Air Marshal) Sir Charles Frederick Algernon PORTAL, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., is appointed Chief of the Air Staff, vice Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Cyril Louis Norton NEWALL, G.C.B., O.M., C.M.G., C.B.E., A.M., and is promoted to the temporary rank of Air Chief Marshal. 25th Oct. 1940. (Substituted for notification in the Gazette of 29th Oct. 1940.)

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

Flight Lieutenant (temporary Squadron Leader) Charles Harold MITCHELL is granted a permanent commission in the substantive rank of Flight Lieutenant. 14th Sept. 1940.

The undermentioned are granted commissions for the duration of hostilities:—

*As Flying Officer on probation.*

Warrant Officer.

21st Oct. 1940.

(Seniority 16th Oct. 1940.)

560048 William John CALVER (44751).

*As Pilot Officers on probation.*

Flight Sergeants.

23rd Sept. 1940.

(Seniority 2nd Sept. 1940.)

560189 Johnstone Bolton ROBERTSON (44752).

13th Oct. 1940.

(Seniority 18th Sept. 1940.)

562984 William Henry FRANKLIN, D.F.M. (44753).

Sergeants.

19th June 1940.

580173 Roy Leslie GREEN (44754).

13th Sept. 1940.

(Seniority 2nd Sept. 1940.)

580449 Henry James BUTT (44755).

12th Oct. 1940.

(Seniority 9th Oct. 1940.)

565509 Henry Roy EDGE (44756).

17th Oct. 1940.

(Seniority 4th Oct. 1940.)

564681 Maxwell Ronald HARVEY (44761).

19th Oct. 1940.

(Seniority 4th Oct. 1940.)

581054 William Thomas Howard HOWELL (44757).

21st Oct. 1940.

(Seniority 4th Oct. 1940.)

519410 Alfred John MOODY (44758).

22nd Oct. 1940.

(Seniority 19th July 1940.)

580474 John Edward Corbett YOUNG (44759).

Leading Aircraftman.

28th Sept. 1940.

(Seniority 9th May 1940.)

516875 Doyne Garnet Thornton HAYES (44760).

The undermentioned Pilot Officers on probation are confirmed in their appointments:—

15th May 1940.

George Douglas Noel NOEL-JOHNSON (42320).

10th July 1940.

Harry Alfred LITVIN (42618).

20th Sept. 1940.

Joseph Alexander TEMPERLEY (42659).

27th Sept. 1940.

Harry Graham HASTINGS, A.F.M. (36226).

29th Sept. 1940.

Henry Graham EDWARDS (36227).

Pilot Officer on probation John Herbert Lempriere BLOUNT (33471) is confirmed in his appointment and promoted to the rank of Flying Officer. 1st Oct. 1940.

Acting Pilot Officer on probation William Oliver CRAMER (42336) is confirmed in his appointment and graded as Pilot Officer. 1st July 1940 (seniority 1st Feb. 1940).

The undermentioned Flying Officers are promoted to the rank of Flight Lieutenant:—

25th June 1940.

James BEAVIS (37566).

6th Aug. 1940.

Geoffrey Lionel Corden BAGSHAW (37590).

3rd Sept. 1940.

Roland Robert Stanford TUCK, D.F.C. (37306).

Wilfred Arthur HARRIS (33256).

Bertie Rex O'Bryen HOARE (37853).

Terence Sydney Raymond KING (37857).