

Awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.

628831 Sergeant Henry DAVIDSON, No. 102 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Cheshire and Sergeant Davidson were the captain and wireless operator respectively, in an aircraft detailed to attack a target near Cologne one night in November, 1940. During a lull, following half-an-hour's intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire, a photographic flare was about to be dropped from a height of 8,000 feet, when it was detonated by a piece of shrapnel causing a blinding explosion in the fuselage and front turret. The cockpit was filled with black fumes and fire broke out. Sergeant Davidson was dazed by the explosion, his face and hands were badly burned and his clothing was set on fire. Showing great coolness Pilot Officer Cheshire regained control of his aircraft, which had lost considerable height and was being subjected to intense anti-aircraft fire and although the explosion had blown out a considerable part of the fuselage and caused other damage, he finally succeeded in regaining height. When the fire was extinguished, Sergeant Davidson's injuries were so severe that he was unable to see. In spite of this he persuaded the rear gunner to guide his burned fingers to the wireless controls as he called out the settings, a process which was continued until it was realised the wireless was useless. Despite his intense suffering, Sergeant Davidson displayed great courage and fortitude by consistently refusing to be landed at a station nearer than base. Although the aircraft was only partially answering to controls, Pilot Officer Cheshire succeeded in regaining his aerodrome. He displayed great courage, determination and leadership throughout.

Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant Howard Peter BLATCHFORD (37715), No. 257 Squadron.

In November, 1940, this officer was the leader of a squadron which destroyed eight and damaged a further five enemy aircraft in one day. In the course of the combat he rammed and damaged a hostile fighter when his ammunition was expended, and then made two determined head-on feint attacks on enemy fighters, which drove them off. He has shown magnificent leadership and outstanding courage.

Flight Lieutenant John Clifford BOULTER (37757), No. 603 Squadron.

This officer has continuously been engaged on active operations since October, 1940. He is an excellent and determined leader, and his coolness and initiative have enabled him to destroy at least five enemy aircraft and share in the destruction of others.

Flight Lieutenant William Bernard GODDARD (36126), No. 235 Squadron.

In November, 1940, this officer was engaged in an attack against two Heinkel 115's. Although severely wounded in the foot resulting in the loss of three toes, Flight Lieutenant Goddard pressed home his attack to within close range and succeeded in delivering a long burst after which the enemy aircraft disappeared. Despite suffering from loss of blood, he succeeded in bringing his aircraft

and crew back to base. He displayed gallantry and fortitude throughout.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Reginald SAWREY-COOKSON (38574), No. 149 Squadron.

One night in November, 1940, this officer was detailed to attack a target at Gelsenkirchen. He was unable to locate his target owing to heavy cloud but, determined to find a profitable objective, he eventually located an unlighted aerodrome on which nine large bombers were lined up on the runway. Diving to 1,500 feet he made several runs over the aerodrome and, in spite of opposition from ground defences, dropped his bombs when sure of obtaining good results. He has consistently shown the utmost determination in locating and accurately bombing his target. Flight Lieutenant Sawrey-Cookson has completed many operational flights over enemy and enemy occupied territory.

Awarded a Bar to the Distinguished Flying Medal.

590289 Flight Sergeant George Cecil UNWIN, D.F.M., No. 19 Squadron.

This airman has shown the greatest keenness, courage and determination to engage the enemy. He is an outstanding fighter pilot and has destroyed a total of thirteen enemy aircraft and assisted in the destruction of others.

Awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.

745707 Sergeant Donald Ernest KINGABY, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 92 Squadron.

This airman has displayed great courage and tenacity in his attacks against the enemy. He has destroyed at least nine hostile aircraft, four of which he shot down in one day.

India Office,

6th December, 1940.

The KING has approved the following promotions, appointments, retirements, etc.:—

ROYAL INDIAN NAVY.

The undermentioned officers are confirmed in the rank of Sub. Lt. with effect from the dates stated against their names and with seny. in that rank from the 1st Oct. 1939:—

Actg. Sub. Lt. F. J. C. Curtis. 28th Aug. 1940.

Actg. Sub. Lt. R. H. H. Jackson. 20th Aug. 1940.

INDIAN ARMY.

Col. (temp. Brig.) J. R. Hartwell, D.S.O., is granted the actg. rank of Maj.-Gen. whilst empld. as a District Comdr. 26th Oct. 1940.

Col. (temp. Brig.) T. W. Corbett, M.C., is granted the actg. rank of Maj.-Gen. whilst empld. as a Divl. Comdr. 1st Sept. 1940.

Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) C. W. Morton, M.C., to be Lt.-Col. 17th Apr. 1940.

Lt. J. R. L. Rumsey to be Capt. 24th Sept. 1940.

The undermentioned appointment is made:—

To be Capt.

Capt. Charles Arthur Morrell, from the K.O.R.R., 14th Nov. 1939, with seny. as Lt., 29th Apr. 1933, and as Capt., 29th Jan. 1939.