

the target area was small, the attack was carried out from a very low level and, in spite of adverse weather and poor visibility, the main objective was successfully bombed, while two searchlights were extinguished by machine-gun fire. Texel aerodrome was afterwards machine gunned from a height of only 300 feet; a ship off Texel was also machine gunned. Wing Commander Elsmie's careful preparation for the flight, and his courage and determination throughout, contributed largely to the complete success of the operation.

Acting Squadron Leader Edward Gordon JONES (37357), No. 80 Squadron.

In February, 1941, this officer was the leader of a formation of 27 aircraft which encountered an enemy force of 19 heavy bombers escorted by at least 30 fighters, in the neighbourhood of Himara. Squadron Leader Jones deployed his formation with great skill and, in the ensuing engagement, at least 27 of the enemy's force were shot down. He has led his squadron with great skill and success on most of the patrols carried out over the Greek front, displaying courage and determination throughout. He has personally destroyed six enemy aircraft.

Flight Lieutenant Richard Nigel CULLEN (39967), No. 80 Squadron.

In February, 1941, this officer was pilot of one of a formation of aircraft which attacked a large force of enemy bombers escorted by at least 30 fighters. Displaying remarkable skill, Flight Lieutenant Cullen shot down five of the enemy's aircraft in the ensuing action. He has now destroyed 11 enemy aircraft and has consistently shown great resource and courage.

Flying Officer George Ernest WESTON (41885), No. 50 Squadron.

One night in February, 1941, Flying Officer Weston was detailed to attack an enemy vessel lying in the dock at Brest. Owing to extreme darkness and exceptional searchlight and anti-aircraft opposition, great difficulty was encountered in locating the target. Although his starboard engine failed, Flying Officer Weston persisted in his search and, in the face of an increasingly heavy and accurate barrage, eventually located his target and pressed home his attack with a full load of bombs. On the return journey, while over the English Channel his engine picked up but again failed. By skilful handling of his aircraft, however, he succeeded in reaching his base where he landed safely. He displayed outstanding gallantry, skill and determination throughout.

Pilot Officer John Henry ASHTON (77456), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 145 Squadron.

This officer has displayed great courage in his engagements against the enemy and has destroyed at least five of their aircraft. Four of these he shot down while serving with his squadron in France. His keenness for operations, under any conditions, has been an inspiration to his fellow pilots.

Pilot Officer James MILLS (43016), No. 115 Squadron.

In February, 1941, this officer was the rear gunner of an aircraft engaged in a bombing operation over enemy occupied territory. Whilst over the aerodrome at Morlaix, a Messerschmitt 110 was encountered and Pilot Officer Mills skilfully directed his pilot into an attacking position and then, with great coolness and skill, shot down the enemy aircraft. Since September, 1939, this officer has participated in numerous operations and has displayed determination and gallantry on all occasions.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

972293 Sergeant Wilfred Stubley AKEROYD, No. 30 Squadron.

In January, 1941, this airman was the rear gunner in one of a formation of aircraft detailed to attack an enemy camp. Approaching the target, the formation was attacked by six enemy fighters and Sergeant Akeroyd was wounded in the finger. Later, he was hit in the right arm and finally in the stomach. In spite of his injuries he returned fire at every opportunity. His wireless set was smashed and when the attackers had been driven off, he crawled forward and informed the pilot of his injuries and the extent of the damage to the aircraft. He displayed great courage and fortitude throughout.

The KING has also been graciously pleased to give orders for the publication of the name of the undermentioned airman in the London Gazette as having received an expression of Commendation for brave conduct in connection with Civil Defence:—

342396 Aircraftman 1st Class Basil HEXTER.

*Air Ministry,
14th March, 1941.*

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

The undermentioned are granted commissions for the duration of hostilities as Pilot Officers on probation:—

Flight Sergeants.

5th Feb. 1941.

(Seniority 2nd Dec. 1940.)

565364 Marcus Liege Louvain BATHE (45289).

5th Feb. 1941.

(Seniority 22nd Jan. 1941.)

565662 Clifford WHITEHEAD, D.F.M. (45289).

12th Feb. 1941.

(Seniority 29th Jan. 1941.)

564805 Lionel WOOD, D.F.M. (45300).

16th Feb. 1941.

(Seniority 29th Jan. 1941.)

513277 Hedley James HOUGHTON (45301).

Sergeants.

5th Feb. 1941.

(Seniority 20th Nov. 1940.)

562144 Hector Haslar HALL (45302).