

Lieut. L. V. Gosling to be Actg. Capt. 21st Apr. 1941.

Proby. Lieut. H. W. F. Grant-Dalton is confirmed as Lieut. with seny. of 11th Aug. 1940.

Air Ministry.
29th April, 1941.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

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

Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Squadron Leader John CUNNINGHAM (90216), D.F.C., Auxiliary Air Force, No. 604 Squadron.

This officer has continued to display the highest devotion to duty in night fighting operations. One night in April, 1941, he destroyed two enemy bombers during a single patrol and a week later destroyed three enemy raiders during three different patrols. Squadron Leader Cunningham has now destroyed at least ten enemy aircraft and damaged a number of others. His courage and skill are an inspiration to all.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader John Percy Devaynes GETHIN (33188), No. 203 Squadron.

This officer carried out low-flying machine gun attacks against two enemy aerodromes, over 350 miles from his base, and was responsible for the destruction of five enemy aircraft and a petrol lorry. In his attack on the second aerodrome he destroyed four aircraft, all of which caught fire. Squadron Leader Gethin has completed many operational missions. He has displayed considerable skill and great tenacity in delivering his attacks.

Flight Lieutenant Geoffrey David Leybourne HAYSOM (39736), No. 79 Squadron.

This officer has been engaged on operational flying since the war began. He has displayed great keenness in his efforts to seek and engage the enemy and has destroyed at least five of their aircraft.

Flight Lieutenant Eric Thornton SMITH (80056), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 237 (Rhodesian) Squadron.

This officer has been continuously engaged on operations over a long period. As commander of a detached flight he has displayed considerable tactical resource and efficiency. He has himself participated in 67 operational missions and has at all times displayed outstanding courage and leadership with a strong determination to seek and harrass any target allotted him.

Captain Kenneth Weekes DRIVER (102646), No. 1 Squadron, South African Air Force.

This officer has led his flight on many offensive operations and fighter patrols. On one occasion, he became separated from his flight during an engagement and, on leaving the area, he observed four enemy fighters and immediately engaged them, shooting one down in flames. Two of the enemy aircraft then attacked him and so severely damaged his aircraft that he was unable to maintain

superior speed. By skilful manœuvring, although he was attacked continuously for 15 minutes, he succeeded in evading them and flew his damaged aircraft back to an advanced landing ground and landed safely. He has displayed great courage in his attacks against the enemy and has destroyed ten of their aircraft in aerial combat and at least five on the ground.

Flying Officer Peter Damien Court THOMAS (41081), No. 223 Squadron.

This officer has been continuously employed as an operational pilot since the outbreak of war with Italy and has completed some 40 operational flights with marked success. On a recent night patrol he attacked an ammunition train by dive-bombing and when this had proved unsuccessful, he continued the attack with incendiary ammunition eventually setting the train on fire and destroying it. His night raids have been outstanding. He has frequently remained over his target for an hour at a time, dropping his bombs singly and then attacking the ground defences with machine gun fire. Flying Officer Thomas has proved himself to be a daring pilot and has always pressed home his attacks with the greatest determination.

Lieutenant Robin PARE (202945), No. 1 Squadron, South African Air Force.

In February, 1941, Lieutenant Pare was detailed with six other aircraft to carry out an attack on the aerodrome at Massawa. On approaching the target, he observed an anti-aircraft gun post about to open fire on the leader of the formation. He attacked and silenced this post but in doing so his guns jammed. In spite of this he continued to dive down on other anti-aircraft posts thus minimising the fire directed against the rest of his formation. Lieutenant Pare also displayed great courage and determination in the battle of Keren, shooting down four enemy fighters in two air battles within three days.

Pilot Officer Arthur Norman William JOHNSTONE (42313).

This officer has been continuously engaged on operations over a long period, during which he has completed many sorties. On one occasion he observed an enemy bomber on the ground. Unable to destroy it by machine-gun fire, he flew past the aircraft, very low, and succeeded in hitting it with a very signal cartridge, which set the aircraft on fire. In February, 1941, he made a reconnaissance over the Agordat area returning with valuable information which enabled land forces to enter the town the following morning. This officer has at all times displayed great enthusiasm, determination and initiative.

Pilot Officer Walter Sinclair KENNEDY (84999), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 47 Squadron.

One day in March, 1941, this officer was the pilot of an aircraft engaged on a bombing attack on a selected target in the Cheren area. At the conclusion of his run over the target he was attacked by two enemy fighters. Incendiary bullets caused petrol from the port main tank to catch fire. As his air gunner was severely wounded he refused to