

flare, he put his aircraft into a steep dive and at 1,000 feet released his bombs which were seen to straddle one of the warships. Pilot Officer Dixon continued his dive to 50 feet and as he flattened out across the harbour, he suddenly encountered intense fire from the multiple guns of another warship lying across his course. He successfully machine-gunned this ship. This officer has shown the most praiseworthy courage and determination and is an exceptional pilot and captain of aircraft.

Pilot Officer George Eric FOWLER (86427), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 75 (New Zealand) Squadron.

Pilot Officer Oliver Rayner MATHESON (84010), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 75 (New Zealand) Squadron.

One night in April, 1941, Pilot Officers Matheson and Fowler were captain and navigator respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack a target in Berlin. On the first run anti-aircraft fire inflicted severe damage on the aircraft causing it to lose height. Nevertheless, Pilot Officer Matheson regained height and, guided by Pilot Officer Fowler made a second run over the target, which was successfully bombed. Previously both officers had been concerned in a successful attack on Kiel. Pilot Officer Matheson and Pilot Officer Fowler have completed numerous operational missions and both have displayed persistent devotion to duty, great courage and outstanding skill.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

620298 Sergeant Bertram Ernest DYE, No. 219 Squadron.

This airman has performed excellent work throughout the numerous day and night operational flights in which he has participated. He has assisted in the destruction of at least three enemy aircraft, and has displayed great keenness and enthusiasm.

1365020 Sergeant Stanley James FAIRWEATHER, No. 151 Squadron.

One night in April, 1941, this airman was the air gunner of an aircraft which attacked an enemy raider over this country. By his skilful use of the turret and his accurate shooting, he damaged the enemy aircraft and finally shot it down in flames. The following night he destroyed another hostile aircraft. He has displayed great keenness and determination.

742055 Sergeant Thomas MCPHEE, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 139 Squadron.

In April, 1941, this pilot was detailed to participate in an attack on a target at Ijmuiden. In spite of intense anti-aircraft opposition which forced his leader to take violent evasive action, Sergeant McPhee kept close company with his leader so that both were successful in bombing the target from a height of only 50 feet. On leaving the target area, Sergeant McPhee was attacked by enemy fighters who followed him for a considerable distance across the North Sea. Although his aircraft was damaged, he succeeded in flying back to his base and landing safely. Sergeant McPhee has carried out numerous operational missions and has displayed great courage and determination throughout.

Air Ministry.
2nd May, 1941.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

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

Flight Sergeants.

18th June 1940.

(Seniority 9th May 1940.)

366445 Leslie Leonard Kennedy WILCOX (43926).

2nd Apr. 1941.

(Seniority 26th Mar. 1941.)

517583 Matthew CAMERON (45540).

Sergeants.

17th Jan. 1940.

564990 Denis Harold Alan SKILLINGS (45541).

11th Feb. 1941.

(Seniority 29th Jan. 1941.)

580129 Cilmyn George Lane WILLIAMS, D.F.M. (45542).

1st Apr. 1941.

(Seniority 26th Mar. 1941.)

566718 George Binmore JOHNS (45543).

12th Apr. 1941.

(Seniority 26th Mar. 1941.)

590802 Thomas Stanley Walker TOWELL, D.F.M. (45544).

The undermentioned Pilot Officers on probation are confirmed in their appointments and promoted to the war substantive rank of Flying Officer:—

8th Oct. 1940.

Arthur Maxwell RUSTON (33475).

16th Mar. 1941.

Anthony Roscoe Towne BEDDOW (33556).

1st Apr. 1941.

Robert William FERGUSON (43064).

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

30th Jan. 1941.

James Robin ALDIS (33362).

24th Feb. 1941.

Raymond William McCARTHY (40239).

23rd Apr. 1941.

David Baron DRAKES (40214).

27th Apr. 1941.

Ian Douglas Stuart STRACHAN (40326).

30th Apr. 1941.

Elmer COTON (70851).

The undermentioned Pilot Officers are promoted to the war substantive rank of Flying Officer:—

30th Sept. 1940.

Robin Earl ATKINSON (41242).

6th Dec. 1940.

Dudley Hogarth Broadbent RELTON (41953).

24th Feb. 1941.

Graeme Vivian DONALD (42460).

Cecil Harry GOULD (42563).

2nd Mar. 1941.

Fraser Grant MILLAR (42627).