

He has carried out many long reconnaissances and, during the evacuation from Greece, displayed boundless energy in organising the Sunderland detachment and finally taking a re-fueller motor boat with several personnel from Athens to Crete via a port in the Peloponnesus where valuable work was carried out in ferrying personnel to a destroyer. The voyage could only be carried out at night owing to enemy air activity but, in spite of many difficulties the passage to Suda Bay was safely accomplished. The arrival of the boat there eventually made it possible for a valuable re-fuelling ship to sail for Egypt. Squadron Leader Alington, though in an unfit state of health at the time, displayed great determination and devotion to duty throughout the operation.

Acting Squadron Leader Lloyd Gilbert SCHWAB (37831), No. 112 Squadron.

This officer has led his squadron in combat against the enemy with considerable skill and has personally destroyed eleven of their aircraft. He has displayed great courage and determination.

Flight Lieutenant Arthur Samuel Barton BLOMFIELD (37714), No. 211 Squadron.

Throughout the many operational flights in which he has participated, this officer has displayed courage and leadership of a high order. He has led the squadron on many occasions.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Alexander FRAME (40615), No. 228 Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of operational missions since the war began. On one occasion, operating from this country, he carried out a patrol in search of five enemy ships which entailed a flight lasting for thirteen and a half hours. Since December, 1940, he has performed excellent work in the Mediterranean zone of operations. During the evacuation from Greece, Flight Lieutenant Frame operated with great success and was responsible for the safe evacuation of over 200 personnel by air. Throughout he has displayed great skill, courage and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer John Derek BISDEE (76575), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 609 Squadron.

This officer has led his flight and section with great skill and determination. He has participated in a large number of operational flights against the enemy and has destroyed at least six of their aircraft besides damaging many others. He has set a fine example.

Flying Officer Alfred Keith OGILVIE (42872), No. 609 Squadron.

This officer has displayed great keenness and determination in his efforts to seek and destroy the enemy. He has shot down at least five hostile aircraft.

Flying Officer Malcolm Kemp SEWELL (40854), No. 70 Squadron.

One night in June, 1941, this officer carried out a flight for the purpose of dropping essential provisions to personnel in Crete. Extremely adverse weather conditions prevailed over the area but finally, in response to an S.O.S. which was flashed from the

ground, Flying Officer Sewell descended to 1,000 feet in an attempt to drop the provisions. He was unable to do this at the first attempt as the wind, which had risen to gale force, was blowing his aircraft at a line of cliffs. Nevertheless, Flying Officer Sewell succeeded in dropping over 300 lbs. of provisions at the second attempt. He then patrolled the coast in an effort to pick up further signs or signals. Returning to his original objective Flying Officer Sewell, again observing an S.O.S. light, descended to 900 feet and dropped further stores along the beach. He then flew to the hills north of the beaches and dropped 16 sacks weighing 60 lbs. each. Altogether, Flying Officer Sewell made 14 runs over his objective in an effort to ensure success. He displayed great flying skill, courage and determination.

Flying Officer Anthony WATSON (41339), No. 203 Squadron.

In May, 1941, this officer was the pilot of one of two aircraft which carried out an attack on the fort at Rutbah and enemy ground forces in the neighbourhood. Both aircraft made determined attacks on the fort in the face of heavy fire from the ground which was eventually silenced. Following an attack by his fellow pilot on some armed forces behind a hill, Flying Officer Watson's attention was drawn to a column of black smoke on the ground. Although his aircraft had been hit in the petrol tank and fuselage he immediately dived towards the position and a moment later saw his fellow pilot, who had apparently been shot down, emerge from the smoke. Turning into wind and without waiting to apply the flaps Flying Officer Watson landed his aircraft less than 20 yards from the burning wreckage and, together with his air gunner and observer, rescued his comrade. In spite of fire from enemy armoured cars and bullets exploding from the burning aircraft, they attempted to find the remaining members of the crew. Failing to find any sign of them, they returned and took off with the rescued pilot. Throughout, Flying Officer Watson displayed great courage and skill as both landing and take-off were made under fire and on ground strewn with rocks and boulders.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant Richard Wright WHITTOME (72013), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 202 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

537071 Sergeant Ernest William MILLS, No. 202 Squadron.

617565 Sergeant John TURNBULL, No. 202 Squadron.

541617 Sergeant Edward WHARTON, No. 202 Squadron.

In June, 1941, Flight Lieutenant Whittome was the captain and Sergeants Mills, Turnbull and Wharton the air gunners of an aircraft which, in the course of a convoy escort operation, was attacked by four enemy aircraft. With great skill, Flight Lieutenant Whittome manoeuvred his aircraft and enabled his air gunners to attack the enemy aircraft as they endeavoured to drop bombs on the convoy. The enemy were finally