

Egypt, Libya and Greece. Since December, 1940, he has flown alone on 62 of these missions over or well behind the enemy's lines, often subjected to intense fire from the ground defences. During the operations in Greece, his work was carried out under extremely difficult conditions. Flight Lieutenant Burnand has displayed great skill and keenness which, combined with his untiring efforts have contributed materially to the high standard of morale and efficiency of his flight.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Robert Davidson GRASSICK (41579), No. 242 Squadron.

This officer has been a member of the squadron since its formation. He has displayed an indomitable spirit and has proved himself to be a first-class section leader. Flight Lieutenant Grassick has destroyed at least six enemy aircraft.

Flying Officer Everard Francis John CHARLES (36198), No. 54 Squadron.

This officer has displayed exceptional zeal and immense enthusiasm during the many offensive sweeps carried out by his unit. He has destroyed at least three enemy aircraft.

Flying Officer Thomas Draper WILLIAMS (90658), Auxiliary Air Force, No. 611 Squadron.

This officer has participated in numerous operational flights over the English Channel and over France during which he has destroyed at least three enemy aircraft and damaged others. In June, 1941, he shot down a Messerschmitt 109 when it was attempting to attack one of our bombers which had been damaged by anti-aircraft fire. He then escorted the bomber, flying at sea level, until the English Coast was reached. Flying Officer Williams has displayed great keenness and courage and has set an excellent example.

Acting Flying Officer Graham Baptie BLACKLOCK, D.F.M. (44874), No. 7 Squadron.

In June, 1941, this officer was the captain of an aircraft which participated in a daylight operation over Bremen. In the vicinity of the target area, nine enemy fighters attacked one of our aircraft. In the ensuing engagement, Flying Officer Blacklock skillfully manoeuvred his aircraft and enabled his gunners to ward off many attacks during which they destroyed one and probably a further two of the attacking aircraft. Later, when one of our aircraft which had been severely damaged was forced to alight on the water, Flying Officer Blacklock, despite the absence of cloud cover, refused to leave the vicinity until it was evident that he could be of no further assistance. This officer has recently taken part in three daylight operations over enemy country. He has displayed excellent leadership, great courage and devotion to duty.

Pilot Officer Arthur ASHWORTH (43699) No. 75 (New Zealand) Squadron.

One night in June, 1941, this officer was the pilot of an aircraft which carried out an attack on the Scharnhorst at Brest. Although the target was obscured, Pilot Officer

Ashworth flew over the area for a considerable time finally dropping flares immediately north and south of the target, which enabled him to see and attack his objective. He also aimed one bomb at an unidentified vessel of 10,000 tons which was observed to be entering the docks. This operation necessitated Pilot Officer Ashworth remaining over the area for one and a quarter hours, making eight surveying runs, at times at an extremely low altitude and in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire. Since February, 1941, this officer has participated in twenty operational missions. He has displayed outstanding skill, courage and infinite care in his efforts to bomb his objectives accurately.

Pilot Officer Trevor Sidney WADE (78984), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 92 Squadron.

This officer has displayed great skill and determination in his numerous engagements against the enemy and has destroyed at least six of their aircraft. His efforts have contributed materially to the successes achieved by the squadron.

Pilot Officer Frank Geoffrey WOOLLEY, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 244 Squadron.

In May, 1941, one of our aircraft crashed during an attack on an armoured train in enemy territory. In spite of difficult ground, Pilot Officer Woolley landed his aircraft beside the wreckage and picked up the injured pilot and airman. Enemy forces, who had detoured, came towards his aircraft but Pilot Officer Woolley took off over the bad ground with the injured crew and flew safely back to his base. By his prompt and gallant action, Pilot Officer Woolley undoubtedly prevented these airmen from falling into the hands of the enemy and enabled the pilot to receive the medical attention he so urgently needed.

#### *Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Flying Officer James Whiteford MURRAY, D.F.M. (84977), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 35 Squadron.

#### *Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1377718 Sergeant Luther MARTIN, No. 35 Squadron.

One night in June, 1941, Flying Officer Murray and Sergeant Martin were the captain and rear gunner respectively of an aircraft detailed to carry out a bombing mission over Hanover. On the outward journey, the aircraft was suddenly engaged by an enemy fighter, which opened fire with cannon and machine guns causing severe damage to the aircraft and the rear gun turret. Nevertheless Sergeant Martin, who was wounded in the head and arm, continued to engage the enemy finally causing him to break off the attack. The aircraft was last observed diving steeply away. With great skill, Flying Officer Murray flew his severely damaged aircraft back to this country, after dropping his bombs on an enemy objective, making a successful landing at an aerodrome without injury to the crew. Flying Officer Murray displayed great airmanship, while Sergeant Martin showed great fortitude in very difficult circumstances.