

skill and coolness withdrew the surviving aircraft without further loss.

Throughout the execution of this operation which he had planned personally with full knowledge of the risks entailed, Wing Commander Edwards displayed the highest possible standard of gallantry and determination.

*Air Ministry,
22nd July, 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:—

Bar to Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Wing Commander Adolph Gysbert MALAN, D.S.O., D.F.C. (37604).

This officer has displayed the greatest courage and disdain of the enemy whilst leading his wing on numerous recent operations over Northern France. His cool judgment, exceptional determination and ability have enabled him to increase his confirmed victories over enemy aircraft from 19 to 28, in addition to a further 20 damaged and probably destroyed. His record and behaviour have earned for him the greatest admiration and devotion of his comrades in the wing. Recently the wing has scored heavily against the enemy with 42 hostile aircraft destroyed, a further 15 probably destroyed and 11 damaged.

Distinguished Service Order.

Wing Commander Geoffrey FRANCIS, D.F.C. (16245), No. 230 Squadron.

During the evacuation from Greece, this officer directed the operations of two flying boat squadrons which evacuated some 700 British personnel and a number of Greek and Yugo-Slav personalities. He personally accomplished some noteworthy flights which, combined with his inspiring leadership, contributed largely to the success achieved. After Crete had been evacuated, Wing Commander Francis undertook a flight in an endeavour to establish contact with some British forces believed to be holding out in a certain locality there. This necessitated flying at night off unfamiliar coast. Nevertheless, Wing Commander Francis skilfully piloted his aircraft to within 5 miles of his objective where he was forced to alight on the water owing to the rough sea. He taxied towards the coast and, while a boat was being launched, the enemy opened fire with machine guns from short range. Wing Commander Francis subsequently took off and flew over the coast, making signals and dropping messages. Throughout this hazardous and difficult operation, he showed great courage, skill and determination.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader Roderick Harvey SPENCER (36058), No. 113 Squadron.

In June, 1941, this officer led his squadron in successive low flying attacks against a force of 100 enemy tanks which threatened our lines of communication. His determined leadership when attacking proved of great value to the ultimate success of the operations. Throughout the numerous missions in

which he has participated both in the Western Desert and in Greece, Squadron Leader Spencer has displayed outstanding skill and determination.

Flight Lieutenant Stanley Thomas MEARES (37683), No. 611 Squadron.

This officer has consistently displayed enthusiasm and skill when leading his flight or his squadron. He has carried out 28 operations over enemy territory during which he has destroyed two Messerschmitt 109F's and damaged two Messerschmitt 109's.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Hubert Raymond ALLEN (42582), No. 66 Squadron.

This officer has displayed great determination in combat and has destroyed at least six hostile aircraft. On a recent occasion, he encountered a formation of three enemy bombers escorted by five fighters. Flight Lieutenant Allen immediately attacked these aircraft; in company with another pilot, and succeeded in destroying one of the fighters.

Pilot Officer Wilfred George Gerald Duncan SMITH (85684), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 611 Squadron.

This officer has participated in many operational flights over enemy territory and has always displayed the utmost keenness to engage the enemy. During recent operations, Pilot Officer Smith has destroyed at least three hostile aircraft.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer Robert Henry MOORE (40841), No. 11 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

564750 Sergeant Thomas Francis MANLY, No. 11 Squadron.

In June, 1941, Flying Officer Moore and Sergeant Manly were pilot and navigator bomb aimer respectively of the leading aircraft of a formation of three detailed to attack enemy shipping in the harbour at Beirut. Owing to dense and low cloud the attack was carried out at an extremely low altitude in the face of intense and accurate anti-aircraft and machine gun fire. Before reaching the objective, the leader's aircraft was hit by a shell which caused considerable damage and injured Sergeant Manly in several places. Despite the handicap, by his skill and devotion to duty, the formation scored a direct hit on a large enemy merchant ship. Although suffering severely, Sergeant Manly displayed great resolution and successfully navigated the formation back to base where Flying Officer Moore skilfully landed his damaged aircraft without accident. Flying Officer Moore has completed 35 and Sergeant Manly 42 operational missions in which they both have shown exceptional keenness and devotion to duty.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

742733 Sergeant William MacMillan GILMOUR, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 611 Squadron.

This airman has displayed excellent qualities as a fighter pilot. During the recent intensive operations over enemy territory Sergeant Gilmour has destroyed three hostile aircraft. He has set an excellent example throughout.