

Tempy. Paymr. Sub-Lieuts. to be Tempy. Paymr. Lieuts. with seny. as stated:—

R. H. J. Lowe. 7th June 1941.

J. P. E. Wright. 27th June 1941.

Proby. Sub-Lieut. A. P. Bunce to be Sub-Lieut. with seny. of 20th June 1939.

To be Tempy. Paymr. Sub-Lieuts.:—

R. J. Burden.

J. M. Hoyle.

26th June 1941.

To be Tempy. Lieut. (E):—

C. C. Mitchell. 21st July 1941.

Air Ministry,
25th 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.

Squadron Leader James Briarr TAIT, D.S.O., D.F.C. (33291), No. 35 Squadron.

In June, 1941, this officer was the captain of the leading aircraft of a formation of three aircraft which carried out an attack on Kiel in clear daylight. Despite accurate anti-aircraft fire, bombs were dropped and observed to burst on the objective. The success which attended this operation was largely due to the magnificent leadership and courage together with the brilliant airmanship displayed by this officer.

Distinguished Service Order.

Flying Officer David Leatham PRICHARD (36203), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 75 (New Zealand) Squadron.

One night in June, 1941, this officer carried out an attack against Cologne. While some distance from his target and when on the edge of a dense belt of searchlights through which he had just flown, Flying Officer Prichard's aircraft was attacked by an enemy fighter which opened fire from very close range. A cannon shell damaged his engine—almost severing one of the airscrew blades—while the rear gun turret was completely put out of action. Although forced to fly at reduced speed with subsequent loss of height and all powers of defence gone, Flying Officer Prichard continued his mission, overcoming almost insuperable difficulties before finally dropping his bombs in the target area. Despite a harassing return journey, he skilfully flew back to base where he successfully crash-landed his aircraft without injury to his crew. On a previous occasion, Flying Officer Prichard displayed great flying skill which enabled his crew to shoot down an enemy fighter which attacked his aircraft when returning from a successful attack on Brest. Throughout the numerous operational flights in which he has participated, this officer has displayed high courage, skill and devotion to duty.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Flying Officer Robert Fenwick OWEN (88466), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 35 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

631203 Sergeant Douglas Peter HOGG, No. 35 Squadron.

In June, 1941, Flying Officer Owen and Sergeant Hogg were the captain and wireless operator/air gunner respectively of an aircraft which participated in a daylight attack on Kiel. After successfully bombing his objective, Flying Officer Owen's aircraft was attacked by four enemy fighters whilst attempting to regain formation with his leader. The aircraft was repeatedly hit—the starboard engine and the wireless were put out of action and the beam gunner killed. Sergeant Hogg coolly returning fire was instrumental in keeping the fighters at long range which enabled his captain to manoeuvre his aircraft and reach cloud cover. Sergeant Hogg thereupon skilfully repaired the wireless set reconnecting twenty-five leads with spare wire. Although one engine had ceased to function Flying Officer Owen flew safely back to base. Throughout, this officer displayed exceptional skill and courage and was ably assisted by the coolness and ability of Sergeant Hogg.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Pilot Officer Eric Harold BAGNALD (85020), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 10 Squadron.

One night in June, 1941, this officer was the navigator of an aircraft which carried out an attack on Bremen. Despite heavy anti-aircraft fire and searchlight activity in the target area, Pilot Officer Bagnald, although the cockpit in which he was operating was penetrated by shell splinters, executed his duties as bomb aimer for some 25 minutes in the most difficult circumstances. On the return journey, Pilot Officer Bagnald was wounded in the left arm and although in great pain, he continued his navigational duties under severe difficulties and ensured the safe return of his aircraft. Throughout the operation this officer showed great courage and devotion to duty.

Pilot Officer John Patrick GEOGHEGAN (62263), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 77 Squadron.

One night in June, 1941, this officer was the observer of an aircraft which carried out an attack on Dusseldorf. During the attack the aircraft was hit and a piece of shrapnel, which entered the perapex of the front turret, struck Pilot Officer Geoghegan on the left arm leaving a jagged open wound. Nevertheless, although in great pain and suffering from shock, Pilot Officer Geoghegan insisted on executing his duties as bomb aimer and, when a tourniquet had been applied, he returned to his post and finally released his bombs over the target. He subsequently navigated the aircraft safely to base. Pilot Officer Geoghegan has previously participated in attacks against Dusseldorf, Brest and Schwerti and has at all times been a keen and courageous navigator.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

R.74313 Sergeant George Eric MITCHELL, No. 7 Squadron.

One night in June, 1941, this airman was the rear gunner of an aircraft which was