

Nevertheless, Flying Officer Woodward succeeded in flying the burning aircraft back over this country and did not abandon it until he had first ensured that his observer had left the aircraft safely. In pressing home his attacks against the enemy, Flying Officer Woodward has displayed great skill and determination.

Flying Officer Ernest Waite WOOTTEN (42667), No. 234 Squadron.

This officer has displayed great dash, enthusiasm and flying ability throughout all the operations in which he has participated. He has destroyed at least five enemy aircraft, of which two were shot down in one engagement.

Pilot Officer William Thomas de Rouffignac WATERS (62342), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 53 Squadron.

In August, 1941, this officer was pilot of one of two aircraft detailed to search for enemy shipping in the Borkum area. A convoy of one large merchantman escorted by five destroyers was observed and both aircraft flew low over the water to attack. They were met by very heavy fire and, whilst taking avoiding action, a wing of Pilot Officer Waters' aircraft struck the water and the tip of the wing was torn off. He then flew into cloud without attacking but, finding that his aircraft was flying correctly, he again searched for the convoy and, on finding it, attacked in a position which necessitated flying down the line of the enemy fire. Pilot Officer Waters displayed gallantry and determination in the face of strong opposition.

#### *Distinguished Flying Medal.*

741968 Sergeant James FLINT, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 49 Squadron.

One night in July, 1941, Sergeant Flint was captain of an aircraft detailed to attack a target in North West Germany. Shortly after crossing the Dutch coast the aircraft was held in a large concentration of searchlights and was hit several times by the fire from an enemy fighter. Sergeant Flint succeeded eventually in escaping from the enemy fighter and, unperturbed, resumed his course to the target. Later, his aircraft was again held by searchlights, whereupon he took evasive action and had to descend to 1,000 feet below getting clear. Sergeant Flint then set course for base but, when approximately 50 miles from the English coast, the aircraft was attacked by two Messerschmitt 110's. Bursts from the enemy ignited Verey light cartridges, which exploded in the pilot's cockpit, and inter-communication was rendered impossible between the members of the crew. The port engine was also hit and put out of action but Sergeant Flint continued to fly on the remaining engine, keeping only a few feet above the surface of the water, with the enemy still attacking from the rear. When about 4 or 5 miles from the coast the enemy aircraft withdrew and shortly afterwards Sergeant Flint was compelled to descend on the water about 800 yards from the shore. His cool courage and determination, together with his calmness and skill, have set a splendid example to the members of his squadron.

*Air Ministry,  
29th August, 1941.*

### ROYAL AIR FORCE.

#### GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

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

#### Flight Sergeants.

24th May 1941.

563552 Clifford Charles FLYNN (46247).

564885 Frank William John KEMP (46248).

3rd Aug. 1941.

519207 Gerald Noel NORTH (46249).

#### Sergeants.

5th July 1941.

580391 Leonard David CYMBALIST (46250).

10th July 1941.

590699 Granville ROBERTS (46251).

24th July 1941.

525809 Michael Sutton MAAS, D.F.M. (46252).

26th July 1941.

564115 Stanley John ARNFIELD (46253).

Flying Officer on probation Jack Martindale WHITWELL, A.F.M. (44540), is confirmed in his appointment. 28th Aug. 1941.

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

6th June 1941.

(Seniority 25th Apr. 1941.)

Ronald John BROWN (44925).

14th June 1941.

Arthur Ernest GARROD (44264).

24th June 1941.

John Ross COCKTON (43952).

21st July 1941.

William Denman WHATLEY (44199).

Thomas Reginald Nelson WHEATLEY-SMITH (44200).

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

1st Apr. 1941.

Michael Warnford HAMLYN (37228).

17th June 1941.

Lewis MacDonald HODGES (33408).

Ernest Alfred JOHNSTON (33343).

Ian Neill Munro MACDONALD (33387).

Kenneth Peter MACKENZIE (33391).

Russell Merriman MACKENZIE (40245).

Colin ROBERTSON, D.F.C. (33412).

23rd June 1941.

William Allcock GRIFFITHS (70800).

27th June 1941.

Ian Roy Cardew MACPHERSON (40311).

David Jackson PENMAN, D.F.C. (40343).

29th June 1941.

Watson Collingwood TURNER (40578).

3rd July 1941.

Ronald Edward LEWIS, D.F.C. (31338).

6th July 1941.

Alan Clement GODFREY, D.F.C. (39820).