

Acting Squadron Leader Denis Graham SMALLWOOD (40645), No. 87 Squadron.

This officer is an exceptionally keen and skilful pilot who has rendered excellent service, especially in night flying operations. In the recent combined operations at Dieppe, Squadron Leader Smallwood led his squadron on two low level attacks on gun emplacements in the face of strong opposition from the ground defences; his leadership proved a valuable asset. By his personal example, he has contributed materially to the high standard of morale and efficiency of his squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Edward Roland THORN, D.F.M. (46957), No. 32 Squadron.

Squadron Leader Thorn, by his personal example and untiring energy, has built his squadron into a highly efficient unit during the five months in which he has been its commanding officer. During the combined operations at Dieppe on 19th August, 1942, he displayed great courage and determination when under heavy fire from the ground defences and he refused to be diverted from his task when warned that he was being attacked by an enemy fighter. The successes achieved by the squadron on this and other occasions have been primarily due to Squadron Leader Thorn's gallantry and fine leadership both in the air and on the ground.

Flight Lieutenant Ivor Herbert EDWARDS (78979), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 19 Squadron.

This officer has completed numerous sorties over enemy occupied territory. He is a skilful and determined leader whose confidence has set an inspiring example. He has destroyed at least two enemy aircraft and damaged several more. Flight Lieutenant Edwards participated with distinction in the recent combined operations at Dieppe.

Flight Lieutenant William GILMOUR (42214), No. 156 Squadron.

One night in August, 1942, this officer was captain of the leading aircraft of a bomber force detailed to attack an objective at Kassel. Despite heavy anti-aircraft fire, Flight Lieutenant Gilmour eventually identified his correct target over which he released his flares with such accuracy that all following aircraft were enabled to bomb their objective successfully. Although his aircraft was badly damaged, Flight Lieutenant Gilmour flew it back to base. By his tenacity and skill, this officer contributed much to the success achieved. He has participated in numerous sorties and has invariably displayed high qualities of leadership and determination.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Leslie, Dennis BRITAIN (85704), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 25 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Britain is an observer of outstanding merit who has assisted in the destruction of 5 enemy aircraft at night. He has also helped considerably in the training of other observers, to whom he has set an excellent example.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Selden Raymond EDNER (64860), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 121 (Eagle) Squadron.

This officer has participated in many operational sorties and has destroyed at least 5 enemy aircraft, a locomotive, and 3 barges. Flight Lieutenant Edner is a fine leader whose skill and determination have greatly inspired other members of his flight.

Acting Flight Lieutenant John SHEPHERD (104447), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 118 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in many sorties over enemy-occupied territory and in several reconnaissance missions and attacks on shipping. He has destroyed at least 2 enemy aircraft. In the combined operations at Dieppe, Flight Lieutenant Shepherd assisted in the destruction of a Dornier 217. He has at all times displayed great skill and determination.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Herbert Edward TAPPIN (89304), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 3 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Tappin who was appointed flight commander in April, 1942, has participated in a number of hazardous operations. He led his squadron in the first sortie during the combined operations at Dieppe, on 19th August, 1942, and although his aircraft was severely damaged, he returned to base safely. Flight Lieutenant Tappin led the squadron in a further three sorties during

these operations and despite the fierce enemy opposition he pressed home his attacks. He has displayed courage and devotion to duty of a high standard.

Flying Officer Jack HENDERSON (106193), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 19 Squadron.

This officer has participated in numerous sorties over enemy-occupied territory in several shipping reconnaissances and took part in the combined operations at Dieppe. Throughout, he has displayed coolness and determination. He has destroyed 1 and probably another 2 hostile aircraft.

Pilot Officer Frank Thorburn BROWN (121082), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 118 Squadron.

This officer has participated in a large number of operational sorties. He has invariably led his section with outstanding ability and has set an example which has done much to maintain the high morale of his fellow pilots.

Pilot Officer Robin John McNAIR (112522), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 87 Squadron.

This officer is a most capable operational pilot. In night-flying operations, he has destroyed a Heinkel 111 and probably destroyed 2 Junkers 88's. In the combined operations at Dieppe, his cool and courageous work set an inspiring example.

#### *Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1257831 Flight Sergeant John William BROOKS, No. 174 Squadron.

Flight Sergeant Brooks has completed 32 operational sorties. These operations have included high and low level raids and dive bombing attacks against industrial installations, aerodromes and sea ports. He also participated in the combined operations at Dieppe on 19th August, 1942. Flight Sergeant Brooks has at all times pressed home his attacks with great courage and determination and has proved himself to be a skilful section leader.

Can./R. 67165 Flight Sergeant Guy Philip ALDRICH YATES, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 40 Squadron.

One night in August, 1942, Flight Sergeant Yates captained an aircraft detailed to attack shipping in Tobruk harbour. On the outward flight, when some 60 miles from the target, serious engine trouble developed. Despite this, he flew on and released his bombs alongside the jetties where a large explosion occurred. On the return journey engine trouble continued, and one of the propellers dropped off. The aircraft rapidly lost height and, although movable equipment was jettisoned, it was not possible to regain height. After ordering his crew to abandon the aircraft by parachute, Flight Sergeant Yates flew on alone. Presently the engines ceased entirely and he was forced to leave by parachute. Throughout this airman displayed great skill and courage, while his efforts to save his aircraft were worthy of high praise.

Can./R. 76955 Sergeant Ronald George BELL, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 408 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

One night in August, 1942, this airman was pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack Duisburg. Whilst over the target area his aircraft was attacked by an enemy fighter from close range. Diving steeply, Sergeant Bell evaded further attacks but his aircraft had sustained extensive damage. The elevators, the port aileron and fuselage were all pierced; the port petrol tanks were riddled, while the hydraulics were shot away and one of the gun cupolas was smashed. The first wireless operator was injured and Sergeant Bell was badly cut in the right hand by splinters. Despite this, he made another run over the target and bombed it. Shortly after leaving the target area one of the engines failed and the aircraft spun towards the ground. Sergeant Bell, however, skilfully regained control and eventually flew his damaged bomber back to an aerodrome in this country where he executed a skilful crash-landing. In the face of harassing circumstances, this airman displayed great courage and devotion to duty.

*Air Ministry, 22nd September, 1942.*

#### ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the followings awards:—

#### *Distinguished Service Order.*

Group Captain Hugh Alex CONSTANTINE.