

Acting Flight Lieutenant Stanley Rowland MÜLLER-ROWLAND (103498), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 39 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in 22 operational missions, involving attacks on shipping, mine-laying missions and bombing sorties. In February, 1943, he flew one aircraft of a formation which attacked a supply ship escorted by 4 destroyers. Hits were obtained, 1 of them by Flight Lieutenant Muller-Rowland who released a torpedo which struck the supply vessel amidships. In March, 1943, he took part in another successful attack on a merchant ship. Some days later, he participated in a daylight attack on a convoy of 1 tanker and 3 destroyers heavily escorted by fighters. In spite of the formidable opposition, Flight Lieutenant Muller-Rowland released his torpedo with accuracy. This officer has displayed great skill and courage, pressing home his attacks with vigour.

Flying Officer Kenneth Richard BINGHAM (120950), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 40 Squadron.

As wireless operator, this officer has completed 32 operational missions. An extremely efficient member of aircraft crew; Flying Officer Bingham has rendered valuable service. In February, 1943, during an operation in bad weather, his skill was largely responsible for the safe return of his aircraft. By effecting repairs to his damaged wireless apparatus he succeeded in obtaining bearings which enabled his pilot to fly the aircraft safely home after it had been hopelessly off its course. Three nights later, when returning from Gabes, the aircraft in which he was flying was brought down on to the sea owing to engine trouble. After drifting for 82 hours in the dinghy, Flying Officer Bingham, with the other members of the crew, succeeded in getting ashore near Zuara. This officer has displayed great determination and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Robert Noel MATHEWS (116727), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 40 Squadron.

Flying Officer Mathews has completed 40 sorties. One night in February, 1943, he piloted an aircraft which attacked Palermo. In the face of heavy and accurate anti-aircraft fire he pressed home a vigorous attack, obtaining hits on the re-fuelling jetties. Just as the bombs were seen to explode, the aircraft went into a dive out of control. Coolly and skilfully, Flying Officer Mathews regained control and flew the aircraft to base where he effected a masterly landing. When the aircraft was inspected it was disclosed that much of the fabric had been stripped off both mainplanes. This officer has displayed great skill and resolution.

Flying Officer Alfred Bruce SMITH (N.Z.41369), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 40 Squadron.

In the campaign in the Western Desert this officer completed numerous sorties, including bombing attacks on enemy concentrations at El Alamein and at Tobruk in subsequent fighting. He displayed great skill throughout and on 2 occasions when his aircraft was damaged by anti-aircraft fire, his fine airmanship contributed materially to the safe return. In February, 1943, he piloted an aircraft which attacked Gabes. Soon after leaving the target area, 1 engine failed. Flying Officer Smith made great efforts to maintain height but, although all moveable equipment was jettisoned, he was forced to bring his aircraft down on to the sea. After some 82 hours in their dinghy the crew eventually landed near Zuara. Flying Officer Smith has displayed great skill, courage and coolness in several trying situations.

Flying Officer Peter William STOKES (46735), No. 23 Squadron.

Flying Officer Stokes has completed 47 sorties, involving attacks on airfields, marshalling yards and factories. On 1 occasion in November, 1942, he attacked a factory at St. Dizier, starting fires. More recently, he has undertaken intruder sorties over Sicily and Italy. One night in March, 1943, he made 2 sorties on the Tripoli-Gabes road. In the face of heavy anti-aircraft fire he pressed home his attacks, destroying many vehicles, starting many fires and causing much confusion on the road, thus enabling following aircraft to bomb with destructive effect. Two nights later, over the airfield at Castel Vetrano, Flying Officer Stokes

destroyed an enemy aircraft. This officer has displayed courage and determination worthy of high praise.

Pilot Officer Ewen GILLIES (141534), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 39 Squadron.

This officer has completed 40 sorties, including many attacks on shipping in the Mediterranean. In January, 1943, he attacked a tanker escorted by 5 destroyers. In spite of heavy opposing fire from the naval vessels, Pilot Officer Gillies pressed home his attack, hitting the tanker with his torpedo. In February, 1943, at night, he took part in an attack on a large tanker escorted by 4 other ships. Pilot Officer Gillies obtained the first hit on the vessel which was subsequently destroyed by other aircraft. This officer has invariably displayed great courage and keenness.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

652758 Flight Sergeant John Robert ANGUS, No. 462 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

This airman, who has completed 32 sorties, is a resourceful and efficient wireless operator. Whilst serving in the United Kingdom he took part in a number of attacks against well defended targets, including Berlin and Hamburg; he also took part in the attack on Cologne when a thousand of our bombers operated. In the Middle East he has rendered excellent service. One night in February, 1943, he was a member of the crew of an aircraft detailed to attack shipping in the harbour at Palermo. During the operation, a flare with its fuse burning failed to leave the chute. Realising the possibility of an explosion which would endanger the aircraft, Flight Sergeant Angus acted with great promptitude. Regardless of the risk entailed he placed his foot on the lid of the chute, thus minimising the effects of the explosion. He sustained a severe injury to the foot but, although in much pain, he continued his wireless duties until base was reached. His courage and resource were worthy of high praise.

Can./R.3384 Flight Sergeant Arthur Farrand NITZ, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 250 Squadron.

This airman has completed 80 sorties, at all times displaying great courage and keenness. After bombing an airfield, in a recent engagement, his formation was attacked by enemy fighters. During the combat, Flight Sergeant Nitz valiantly assisted his leader, whose aircraft had developed engine trouble, and fought off the persistent attacks of 4 fighters, destroying 1 of them. Flight Sergeant Nitz has destroyed 4 enemy aircraft.

Air Ministry, 9th April, 1943.

AWARDS OF FOREIGN DECORATIONS. ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has granted unrestricted permission for the wearing of the undermentioned decorations conferred on the officers indicated in recognition of valuable services rendered in connection with the war:—

CONFERRED BY THE QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS.

Commander of the Order of Orange Nassau.

Air Commodore John Melbourne MASON, D.S.C., D.F.C.

CONFERRED BY THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT.

Croix de Guerre Belge.

Acting Wing Commander Christopher Frederick CURRANT, D.S.O., D.F.C. (43367).

Acting Wing Commander Ian Richard GLEED, D.S.O., D.F.C. (37800).

Air Ministry, 9th April 1943.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

Flg. Offs. to be Flt. Lts. (war subs.):—

D. R. CHALMERS (2nd Lt. Cameronians) (44807). 2nd Nov. 1942.

G. A. WILKINS, D.F.C. (45120). 1st Dec. 1942. (*Seny. 27th Nov. 1942.*)

H. R. H. F. IRWIN (Lt. 5th Maharatta L.I. T.A.) (47305). 4th Jan. 1943.

H. G. J. CODDINGTON (2nd Lt. R.U. Rif.) (45331). 15th Feb. 1943.

R. G. COOKE (45305). 18th Feb. 1943. (*Seny. 5th Feb. 1943.*)