

crashed into the sea. Although his aircraft had been damaged he skilfully piloted it back to his base, which necessitated a sea crossing of more than 400 miles.

Awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.

508952 Flight Sergeant Gordon Allen POWELL.

During April, 1940, Flight Sergeant Powell was captain of an aircraft, taking part in a low-flying attack on Stavanger aerodrome, which was pressed home with the greatest determination in the face of intense anti-aircraft and machine-gun fire. His aircraft received three direct hits, the first of which wounded him in the shoulder and left side and also severely damaged the aircraft. Immediately he was hit Flight Sergeant Powell dived near to the ground and made his escape to sea. Despite his wounds and loss of blood and the difficulty of controlling his damaged aircraft he succeeded in reaching his home base, a distance of 370 miles, in extremely bad weather at night. His gallantry and devotion to duty were outstanding.

549581 Corporal John WALLACE.

In April, 1940, Corporal Wallace was wireless operator and air gunner of an aircraft engaged in the bombing of two enemy cruisers in Christiansand Bay, when an attack was made by nine enemy aircraft. He displayed the greatest gallantry and coolness in the face of repeated attacks by superior numbers and shot down one Messerschmitt fighter into the sea. Under wireless instructions from the formation leader his aircraft then escorted another, which had been disabled, until the latter was forced to alight on the sea, but by Corporal Wallace's accuracy in giving its position a vessel was enabled to reach the scene.

621062 Acting Corporal Albert Douglas COLDICOTT.

In April, 1940, this airman was wireless operator and air gunner of an aircraft, piloted by Pilot Officer M. G. Homer, which attacked two enemy cruisers in Christiansand Bay. During the engagement with enemy fighters Corporal Coldicott shot one down which burst into flames and crashed into the sea. His own aircraft had been damaged, but by obtaining accurate bearings under difficult and harassing conditions he enabled his pilot to navigate the aircraft successfully to its home base.

*Air Ministry,
26th April 1940.*

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

The undermentioned are granted permanent commissions in the substantive rank of Flying Officer on the dates stated:—

18th Nov. 1939.

Robert Henry WARCUP (37533).

15th Dec. 1939.

Alan Richmond Lloyd GRIFFITHS (37398).

The undermentioned Pilot Officers on probation are confirmed in their appointments on the dates stated:—

15th Dec. 1939.

Henry Bell KIRK (70808).

2nd Jan. 1940.

Arthur Richard BUTCHER (70104).

5th Mar. 1940.

Robert HERRICK (70899).

20th Mar. 1940.

Philip James DORRINGTON (70186).

The undermentioned Acting Pilot Officers on probation are confirmed in their appointments and graded as Pilot Officers on the dates stated:—

28th Dec. 1939.

Robert Anthony MOSLEY (41724).

1st Jan. 1940.

Douglas Robert KEENAN (41529).

19th Jan. 1940.

Richard Cleverdon SKELLON (41806).

Edward George SPEARING (41807).

20th Feb. 1940.

John BARKER (41773).

James Graham SANDISON (41804).

28th Feb. 1940.

Brian Pouncefoote LEGGE (41936).

9th Mar. 1940.

Angus Scott MALCOLM (42466).

6th Apr. 1940.

Norman James BRISBANE (41897).

The undermentioned Acting Pilot Officers on probation are graded as Pilot Officers on probation with effect from the 4th Dec. 1939, and confirmed in their appointments 19th Jan. 1940:—

Archibald William BUTLER (41778).

Alfred Reuben COSTELLO (41781).

The undermentioned Acting Pilot Officers on probation are graded as Pilot Officers on probation on the dates stated:—

6th Nov. 1939.

Ronald Jack Pitt BARBER (41541).

31st Jan. 1940.

William Gordon MELLOR (42515).

18th Feb. 1940.

Arthur Clement SARGENT (42533).

20th Feb. 1940.

Percy Drinkwater STRONG (42277).

Clifford Scott VOS (42284).

Lenard Lawrence BARTLEY (42182).

Sydney AULT (42295).

Lawrence Wallace BASAN (42296).

John BEVERIDGE (42297).

Stanley Allen Fawcett BOWEN (42298).

Samuel George COOPER (42301).

Alexander Gordon CROCKETT (42302).

Anthony DARLING (42303).

Jack Lawson GROVES (42305).

Thomas Albert GRUNDY (42306).

Thomas Leslie HOGG (42310).

Guy Inglis JERDEIN (42312).

Neville Maxwell Hainault KNOWLES (42314).

Robert Haldane McDONALD (42316).

Peter MOLLER (42318).

George Douglas Noel NOEL-JOHNSON (42320).