

and still in the danger zone, Pilot Officer Gardiner succeeded in extricating the wounded pilot from the cockpit. He brought the damaged aircraft back across 450 miles of sea, making a perfect landfall and landing under difficult and harassing conditions.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Robert Edward CRAVEN (39859).

This officer was captain and pilot of a flying-boat which proceeded on a special journey to Norway, in very bad weather, in April, 1940. On arrival at his destination, he handled his aircraft with great skill and gallantry, and disembarked his passengers in the face of persistent enemy bombing attacks. The return journey was successfully accomplished on the following day in spite of adverse weather conditions. Flight Lieutenant Craven displayed great determination, courage and perseverance in carrying out this hazardous mission.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Nelles Woods TIMMERMAN (39046).

During May, 1940, this officer was pilot of an aircraft returning to its base when an enemy aircraft was seen to fly past in the opposite direction. Flight Lieutenant Timmerman immediately turned and gave chase and, after firing from his front gun with great determination, shot the enemy down into the sea. Earlier in April, he successfully attacked two Flak ships, destroying at least one of them. This officer has displayed great resource, determination and enthusiasm in carrying out special night operations, often under adverse weather conditions.

Flying Officer Newell ORTON (39330).

During April, 1940, this officer was the leader of a rear section in a patrol of nine aircraft, and in that position was allotted the important task of guarding the rear of the formation. Whilst two enemy aircraft were being pursued into Germany, he noticed other enemy aircraft at the left rear. After warning the leader of the formation, he proceeded with his section to attack the enemy, which proved to be three Messerschmitt 109's, one of which he shot down in flames. Later, during the same patrol, the formation again came in action with 12 enemy aircraft and during this engagement Flying Officer Orton attacked a Messerschmitt 110 and, it is believed, destroyed it. This officer has displayed skill and determination in a number of previous combats.

Flying Officer Gerald Bernard WARNER (39700).

As captain and pilot of his aircraft this officer displayed exceptional skill and courage when attacked by a superior number of enemy aircraft. He successfully manoeuvred his aircraft, to afford the most effective use of the guns, and thus enabled his gunners to beat off the attack and destroy one Messerschmitt 109. Another Messerschmitt 110 was severely damaged. Pilot Officer Warner has at all times shown exceptional skill and coolness in the face of the enemy.

Pilot Officer Robert James HILL (40300).

During April, 1940, Pilot Officer Hill was the captain of one of six aircraft which had been sent to attack enemy transports and shipping in Granvin Fiord. Whilst returning to his base, after completing his task, he encountered two Dornier 18 flying boats which he immediately engaged. One Dornier alighted on the sea and Pilot Officer Hill resumed the attack with his front gun, several bursts being seen to hit the fuselage. While he was continuing this attack, the second Dornier attacked his aircraft but was beaten off and it eventually dived at the water where its bows submerged. During this last phase Pilot Officer Hill was wounded in the face and hand but throughout the engagement he displayed great courage and initiative.

Pilot Officer Lawrence Latham JONES (40542).

This officer was second pilot and navigator of a flying boat engaged on a special journey to Norway in April, 1940. During the temporary absence of his captain, after a landing had been made, Pilot Officer Jones assumed command and successfully manoeuvred his aircraft on the water to avoid the intense bombing attacks by enemy aircraft. Subsequently it became necessary to take off, but he was attacked by an enemy fighter shortly afterwards. By skilful tactics he brought his tail guns to bear and the enemy was shot down. This officer showed skill and gallantry of a very high order.

Awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.

631726 Aircraftman, 1st Class, John Henry WATERFALL.

This airman was the rear gunner of an aircraft attacked by a superior number of enemy fighters, but by cool, deliberate and accurate fire he shot down one Messerschmitt 109 in flames and severely damaged one Messerschmitt 110. His actions were undoubtedly instrumental in securing the safe return of his aircraft to its base.

*India Office,
17th May, 1940.*

The KING has approved the following promotions, appointments, retirements, etc.:—

ROYAL INDIAN NAVY.

Sub-Lt. M. B. Hall to be Lt., 28th Mar. 1940.

INDIAN ARMY.

2nd Lt. J. D. Alexander to be Lt., 28th Apr. 1939.

The undermentioned appt. is made from the Unattd. List:—

To be 2nd Lt. (O.M.E.) (on prob.).

12th Oct. 1938, with seny. 28th Jan. 1937.

John David Alexander, B.Sc. (Eng.). (In substn. of the notfn. in the Gazette of the 24th Mar. 1939.)