

period he has taken part in numerous attacks on important targets in Germany, and also on the enemy-occupied port of Bordeaux. He has at all times displayed a fine spirit in the execution of these flights, and has set and maintained a high standard of operational efficiency throughout his command.

Acting Squadron Leader Roy ANDERSON (70016), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 83 Squadron.

This officer has participated in many operational flights over enemy and enemy occupied territory, often in the face of intense and sustained anti-aircraft fire. In all these operations he has shown the greatest determination in pressing home his attacks and, by his consistent zeal and efficiency, has set a splendid example to all.

Acting Squadron Leader Kenneth Phillip SMALES (39764), No. 44 Squadron.

This officer has participated in many attacks on enemy dockyards in France and Germany, and also on important oil and railway depots. One night in February, on returning from a raid over Dusseldorf, he was attacked by an enemy fighter when over his base aerodrome. Although the port engine of his aircraft was put out of action by the enemy's fire, he displayed great skill in evading the attacker and landed safely without the help of landing lights. He has been a successful and resourceful pilot and has pressed home his attacks with great determination.

Acting Squadron Leader Alfred Howard SMYTHE, A.F.C. (37563), No. 214 Squadron.

This officer has commanded a flight for the last 5 months. He has completed numerous operational flights against the enemy in the execution of which, he has displayed splendid leadership and great determination in his efforts to bomb his targets accurately. On one occasion, at Bremen, being unable to locate his allotted target owing to haze, he flew to Wilhelmshaven where he dropped his bombs on a warehouse starting two big fires. He has set a splendid example.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Ralph Eric TALLIS (84014), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 82 Squadron, (missing).

In April, 1941, this officer was detailed to seek and attack enemy shipping off the Norwegian coast. Flying among the Norwegian islands, he observed a newly built runway on a small island and five Messerschmitts on the ground with their engines running; two others were flying round the aerodrome. Despite considerable anti-aircraft fire and the presence of the two fighters, Flight Lieutenant Tallis carried out a daring attack from a very low height. One of his bombs burst in the centre of the runway and another exploded beneath one of the enemy fighters as it was taking off, completely destroying it. The aircraft on the ground were also machine gunned. After the attack in company with another of our aircraft, he was engaged in resisting the attacks of three enemy fighters for about sixteen minutes. He has carried out numerous operational flights

and has at all times displayed great courage and a keen determination to reach his objective under any conditions.

Acting Flying Officer Ralph William FASTNEDGE (82723), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 139 Squadron.

This officer was the observer in an aircraft, which was one of a formation detailed to attack special targets at Den Helder. In the face of intense anti-aircraft fire, he bombed his specific target from a height of only 50 feet, scoring a direct hit. Immediately afterwards, he was wounded in the leg and, at the same time his pilot was also hit. The aircraft began to fly erratically and Flying Officer Fastnedge thereby realised that his pilot must be badly wounded. Although the aircraft was still flying at only 50 feet and within the target area, the pilot was removed from his seat with the aid of the air gunner and Flying Officer Fastnedge took over the controls and flew the aircraft back to base. On arriving over the aerodrome, the pilot was assisted back into his seat in order that he might land the aircraft but, owing to his dazed condition, he was unable to see sufficiently and Flying Officer Fastnedge guided him in and between them they made a successful landing. The courage, initiative and ability of this officer, under extremely difficult circumstances, were of the highest order.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Flight Lieutenant George Edward GOODE (81675), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 105 Squadron.

Pilot Officer James Frederick HOGAN (45523), No. 105 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

755633 Sergeant Geoffrey Serpell ROWLAND, No. 105 Squadron.

In May, 1941, Flight Lieutenant Goode, Pilot Officer Hogan and Sergeant Rowland were the pilot, navigator and wireless operator air gunner respectively of an aircraft which, despite the absence of cloud cover, attacked the oil storage tanks to the west of Rotterdam. In the face of intense anti-aircraft fire the bombs were released over the objective from a low level. During this attack, Pilot Officer Hogan was severely wounded by a shell which burst on the front of the aircraft. Flight Lieutenant Goode had altered course for home when he was attacked in turn by each of five pursuing enemy aircraft. Pilot Officer Hogan, who had retained consciousness, rendered valuable assistance by giving clear instructions to his pilot who was thus able to adopt skilful evading tactics. Sergeant Rowland was wounded in the trigger finger and his starboard gun put out of action. Nevertheless, he continued firing with the remaining gun, working the turret by hand as the mechanical control was damaged. The attackers eventually broke away and Flight Lieutenant Goode, although wounded in the hand, flew his damaged aircraft back to this country, where he made a successful forced landing. Throughout the operation Flight Lieutenant Goode, Pilot Officer Hogan and Sergeant Rowland displayed the greatest courage, fortitude and devotion to duty.