

Shipping was bombed from mast height with the utmost determination, and seventeen large ships totalling some 90,000 tons were destroyed, whilst others totalling about 40,000 tons were damaged. The brilliant leadership, courage and skill of this officer contributed very materially to the magnificent success of the operation. Since the beginning of June, 1941, Wing Commander Webster has participated in six operational missions, each of which has been an unqualified success.

Acting Flight Lieutenant George Geoffrey DAVIES (87415), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 102 Squadron.

One night in July, 1941, this officer was the captain of an aircraft which carried out an attack on Bremen. Over the target area the aircraft was subjected to heavy anti-aircraft fire whilst held in the beams of a concentration of searchlights. Nevertheless, Flight Lieutenant Davies continued his bombing run and was shortly engaged by enemy fighters. In the course of the action the rear gunner was killed and much damage inflicted to the aircraft causing it to go out of control at 10,500 feet. In spite of great difficulties, Flight Lieutenant Davies, showing exceptional skill and admirable presence of mind, succeeded in regaining control after the aircraft had fallen some 7,000 feet. Coming out of the spin the aircraft was again attacked by enemy fighters but Flight Lieutenant Davies skilfully maintained a level flight and with a superlative display of airmanship succeeded in flying back to an aerodrome in this country where he landed safely without further damage to the aircraft or injury to his crew. Throughout the whole of this most hazardous operation, Flight Lieutenant Davies displayed the utmost courage and determination and was certainly responsible for saving the aircraft and the crew from destruction.

*Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Wing Commander Alan McDonald BOWMAN, D.F.C. (32138), No. 39 Squadron.

This officer has commanded the squadron since April, 1941, during which period it has carried out a large number of long distance reconnaissances. By his leadership, skill and determination, Wing Commander Bowman has contributed largely to the great successes achieved.

Acting Squadron Leader Peter Guy WYKEHAM-BARNES, D.F.C. (33211), No. 73 Squadron.

This officer has been almost continuously engaged on active operations in the Western Desert since the war with Italy began. Since assuming command of the squadron he has displayed outstanding leadership and determination and has contributed in a large measure to its high standard of efficiency and fighting spirit.

Flight Lieutenant Paul Henry Mills RICHEY, D.F.C. (39757), No. 609 Squadron.

This officer has displayed great skill and coolness throughout the numerous operational missions in which he has participated and has destroyed at least nine enemy aircraft and damaged a further seven. As a flight

commander he has invariably displayed a high sense of responsibility for the safety of his fellow pilots.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Wing Commander Thomas Noel PARTRIDGE (37574), No. 18 Squadron (missing).

In July, 1941, this officer participated in an attack against enemy shipping at Le Havre. By his skilful leadership, the formation was enabled to carry out an attack from a low level. In spite of accurate anti-aircraft opposition the operation was carried through with great determination and resulted in a loss to the enemy of some 18,000 tons of shipping with a further 4,500 tons damaged. Wing Commander Partridge scored direct hits on the largest ship in the outer harbour. By his careful preparation for the flight and his determined and courageous leadership throughout, Wing Commander Partridge contributed materially to the successes obtained.

Acting Squadron Leader Kenneth Cadham FORSYTHE (41573), No. 110 Squadron.

In July, 1941, this officer participated in an attack on an enemy convoy consisting of five merchant ships with five escorting destroyers. As a result, one merchant ship of 7,000 tons, with ammunition on board, blew up, and another 6,000 ton ship was so severely damaged that, about an hour later, only the stern was above water. A third ship was also so badly hit that the speed of the convoy was reduced in consequence. This enabled Swordfish aircraft to complete the destruction of the disabled vessel and also to destroy another one. By his splendid leadership and skill, Squadron Leader Forsythe contributed materially to the brilliant success of this operation.

Acting Squadron Leader Whitney Willard STRAIGHT, M.C. (90680), Auxiliary Air Force, No. 242 Squadron (missing).

This officer has participated in many engagements against the enemy throughout which he has displayed excellent qualities of leadership and zeal. He has destroyed at least three enemy aircraft, one of which he shot down at night.

Flight Lieutenant Anthony John Mander SMYTH (36137), No. 55 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in over fifty operational missions over enemy and enemy occupied territory. He has led the squadron on many occasions and has at all times displayed the greatest keenness and determination, setting an excellent example to all.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Arthur Benjamin BROADLEY (87659), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 105 Squadron.

One evening in July, 1941, this officer participated in a raid against shipping at Rotterdam. The attack was carried out from mast height and Flight Lieutenant Broadley succeeded in obtaining direct hits on an 8,000 ton ship, apparently under construction and nearing completion, in one of the harbour docks. Flight Lieutenant Broadley has participated in twenty-two operational missions and throughout has displayed great skill and courage.