

Acting Flight Lieutenant Colin Hamilton MCFIE (90657), Auxiliary Air Force, No. 616 Squadron (missing).

This flight commander has carried out many operational sweeps over enemy territory. He has at all times displayed efficiency and qualities of leadership which have proved of great value. He has destroyed two and damaged a further three of the enemy's aircraft.

Pilot Officer George Stanley Evan MORRIS (82204), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 70 Squadron.

This officer was rear gunner of an aircraft which was attacked from the rear with cannon and machine gun fire from three enemy fighters while making a run over Nasrulla aerodrome. The enemy's first burst of fire destroyed the hydraulic system of the rear turret and wounded Pilot Officer Morris in the abdomen and right leg. Despite his wounds he operated his turret by hand and fired a long burst into one of the attacking fighters which burst into flames and crashed. The remaining attackers concentrated on the rear turret which was shot to pieces. Pilot Officer Morris, however, continued to keep his guns in action and fired another long burst of fire which, with one from the front gunner, entered another of the enemy fighters and caused it to dive towards the ground. It was probably destroyed. Further bursts from the front and rear guns were fired into the remaining fighter causing it to break off the engagement. Throughout the action Pilot Officer Morris set a splendid example of courage and endurance.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Pilot Officer William Jeffrey REES (86395), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 75 (N.Z.) Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

952538 Sergeant Ivan William LEWIS, No. 75 (N.Z.) Squadron.

One night in July, 1941, Pilot Officer Rees and Sergeant Lewis were the captain and wireless operator respectively of an aircraft which attacked a target at Duisburg. Although the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire, Pilot Officer Rees persisted in his attack and completed a successful run over the target. On the return journey whilst over the Ruhr, the aircraft was held in the beams of a large searchlight belt and subjected to an attack by an enemy fighter which inflicted severe damage. The second pilot was killed and two other members of the crew dangerously wounded, while Sergeant Lewis was badly shocked and rendered temporarily deaf when a cannon shell exploded close to him. Nevertheless, realising that his captain was without aid and could not leave the controls, Sergeant Lewis tended his wounded comrades, afterwards collecting the navigator's log and maps and assisting him in setting out the courses. Pilot Officer Rees, with exceptional skill, finally overcame all navigational difficulties and, helped by Sergeant Lewis who had repaired his wireless set and obtained bearings, flew back to this country where a safe landing was made. Pilot Officer Rees displayed outstanding courage and determina-

tion in extremely harassing circumstances and was ably assisted by Sergeant Lewis who showed great fortitude and initiative. Both have participated in numerous operational missions.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

N.Z.391352 Sergeant Reginald Joseph Cowan GRANT, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 145 Squadron.

This pilot has taken part in twenty-two operations over enemy territory during which he has destroyed two enemy aircraft and damaged several others. His keenness and devotion to duty have set an excellent example.

745790 Sergeant John Anthony HUGHES-REES, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 609 Squadron.

This airman has completed a large number of operational sorties against the enemy and has destroyed at least four of their aircraft. In every engagement he has shown courage and enterprise.

AUS.400019 Sergeant Reginald Daly MOHR, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 39 Squadron.

This airman was the observer of an aircraft which carried out a long distance reconnaissance over enemy territory. In the course of the flight the pilot became incapacitated and fell over the controls. The aircraft went into a dive and Sergeant Mohr, with great coolness and initiative, fitted the auxiliary control and succeeded in regaining control of the aircraft after it had lost height for some 4,000 feet. He then flew safely back to base before handing the controls over to his pilot who had recovered sufficiently to land the aircraft safely. By his initiative and promptitude, Sergeant Mohr saved the aircraft and crew from becoming a loss.

741982 Sergeant Arthur Gordon PALMER, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 609 Squadron.

This airman has taken part in eighty-eight operational sorties. He has at all times shown tenacity and great devotion to duty and has destroyed one of the enemy's aircraft.

AMENDMENTS.

In notification of 1st July, 1941 (p. 3770, col. 2) regarding 568083 Sergeant Leonard Reginald JAMES, for No. 22 Squadron read No. 201 Squadron.

In notification of 25th July, 1941 (p. 4276, col. 1) regarding Squadron Leader Edward Gordon JONES, D.F.C. (37357), for No. 50 Squadron read No. 80 Squadron.

*Air Ministry,*

*8th Aug. 1941.*

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

The undermentioned are granted commissions for the duration of hostilities as Pilot Officers on probation:—

Temporary Warrant Officers.

12th June 1941.

564020 Alan Hensworth HEMSLEY (46119).