

communication gear was out of order, removed the wounded pilot from his seat, took over the controls and flew the aircraft back to base. During this period, Flight Lieutenant Watkins had momentary periods of consciousness and, when informed that the aircraft was over base, insisted on taking control. Although in intense pain and very weak from loss of blood, by a supreme effort he regained his seat and made a landing without damaging the aircraft. Throughout Flight Lieutenant Watkins displayed the highest courage and devotion to duty while Sergeant Sargent displayed courage and resource in difficult circumstances.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant Christopher Smales BARTLETT (39928), No. 216 Squadron.

One night in May, 1941, this officer carried out a flight which necessitated transporting a party of Royal Engineers and landing them beside a highly strategical railway bridge which it was intended to destroy. Much of the complete success of this daring and difficult operation can be attributed to the skill displayed by this officer. Flight Lieutenant Bartlett has also executed eleven successful night raids.

Acting Flight Lieutenant William Alfred SHILLITTO (43142).

This officer has carried out many flights of a technical nature in which he has shown great devotion to duty. The majority of flights, undertaken in all forms of weather conditions, have been over the English Channel and towards enemy-occupied territory. On one occasion his aircraft was repeatedly attacked by a Messerschmitt 109F. After taking successful avoiding action Flight Lieutenant Shillitto succeeded in firing a long burst which damaged the Messerschmitt and the engagement was broken off. Flight Lieutenant Shillitto is a capable leader who has set a very high standard.

Flying Officer Clive Selwyn DAVIS (81380), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 38 Squadron.

One night in June, 1941, this officer carried out a successful attack on a target at Benghazi, afterwards flying on to Benina where, in spite of heavy anti-aircraft fire, he machine gunned aircraft on the ground from a low altitude. This officer has carried out 34 operational flights, and has at all times displayed exceptional keenness, skill and determination.

Flying Officer Leonard David Mostyn SCOTT (41873), No. 145 Squadron.

Flying Officer Scott has taken part in 32 sweeps over enemy territory and has displayed the utmost gallantry and unflinching cheerfulness throughout. He has destroyed two enemy aircraft.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Victor Bosanquet VERITY (42164), No. 96 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

905920 Sergeant Frederick William WAKE, No. 96 Squadron.

Squadron Leader Verity has shown a fine example by the skill with which he has intercepted enemy aircraft at night and the

determination he has displayed in his attacks. He has destroyed at least two and damaged two other hostile aircraft. In most of his combats, Squadron Leader Verity has been accompanied by Sergeant Wake who, as an air gunner, has displayed great skill, determination and courage.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Flying Officer George Eric WALKER (84711), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 7 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

902479 Sergeant Bernard CAPEL, No. 7 Squadron.

In July, 1941, Flying Officer Walker and Sergeant Capel were navigator/bomb aimer and rear gunner respectively of an aircraft which attacked the battle cruiser Scharnhorst at La Pallice. Flying Officer Walker skilfully navigated the aircraft to the target and, in the face of intense anti-aircraft opposition, succeeded in scoring a direct hit on the battle cruiser with a heavy bomb. During the operation, the aircraft was engaged by six enemy fighters and Sergeant Capel, by accurate and well-controlled fire destroyed the first two of them which attempted to close the range. The remainder finally flew away. Flying Officer Walker, by his navigational and bombing skill contributed largely to the success of the operation, while Sergeant Capel displayed great coolness and accurate shooting when opposed by a superior number of enemy aircraft. Both have participated in many previous operational missions.

*Bar to the Distinguished Flying Medal.*

563359 Sergeant John ONIONS, D.F.M., No. 226 Squadron.

This airman has completed 186 sorties. In July, 1941, he was pilot of one of a formation of aircraft which carried out a low-level attack on a convoy in daylight off the coast of Nordeney. On sighting the convoy of seven merchant vessels escorted by Flak ships, the formation broke up and the pilots attacked individually. In the face of intense anti-aircraft fire, Sergeant Onions secured at least one direct hit from low level on a ship of about 3,000 tons. His aircraft was twice hit, two of his crew received injuries, the navigation instruments and maps were wrecked and the hydraulic system was put out of action. Despite all this, Sergeant Onions successfully led the formation back to base and landed his damaged aircraft, with its undercarriage retracted, without further injury to his crew. He has at all times displayed high courage and determination.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

774062 Sergeant Vernon George HUDSON, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 11 Squadron.

This airman has carried out 15 operational flights in the Albanian, Syrian and Greek theatres of war. On one occasion, whilst attacking the outer defences at Kiswe, his aircraft was considerably damaged by anti-aircraft fire but with great skill, Sergeant Hudson succeeded in flying back to base and landing safely. On another occasion, he displayed great initiative while