

less of their superiority in numbers, he at once attacked and shot down one. By skilful manœuvring he enabled his Observer to bring down another; the remainder of the enemy were driven down to their lines; he then completed his reconnaissance and returned home. Leaving the other machine behind, he again crossed the enemy lines; he bombed a train and attacked some mechanical transport at 1,500 ft. altitude. This particular exploit is highly creditable to both these officers, the machine in which they flew being unsuitable for low bombing attacks; moreover, they were subjected to very heavy anti-aircraft and machine-gun fire.

Lt. (Hon. Capt.) Arthur Watts Williams.
2nd Lt. Alfred Horace Watters.

Captain Williams, with 2nd Lt. Watters as Observer, took part in a night raid on a railway junction. Getting well over the objective they descended to 500 feet and released four bombs on a moving train. They then, in face of very heavy and accurate fire, flew up and down the junction and railway track at altitudes varying from 250 ft. to 90 ft., bombing the railway and sweeping the station and sidings with machine-gun fire. Captain Williams has carried out fifteen night bomb raids with great success, proving himself an able and courageous pilot. In these raids he has been ably assisted by his Observer, 2nd Lt. Watters. This officer possesses qualities invaluable in an Observer—quickness in detecting hostile movements as well as first-rate marksmanship.

AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING MEDAL.

No. 402108 Serjt.-Mech. Frank William Bell (Egremont).

A keen and reliable Observer, who has taken part in eighteen bomb raids, invariably showing gallantry and devotion to duty, notably on a certain occasion not long since, when his Pilot dived through the centre of an enemy formation of some thirty machines; five of these subsequently closed on his machine, but by skilful manœuvring the Pilot gave Serjt. Bell the opportunity, which he took quick advantage of, by shooting down two of the enemy aircraft in flames, while the remaining three broke off the combat and disappeared in the mist.

P/6434 Serjt.-Mech. Hubert Cecil Hunt (late Bedf. R.).

A keen and skilful Observer, on whose courage and resource Pilots place absolute reliance. He has personally shot down and destroyed five enemy machines, two of which he accounted for during one patrol.

No. 406346 Serjt.-Mech. Charles Lines (Ipswich).

This non-commissioned officer has taken part in thirty-four bombing raids, six photographic flights and fourteen special reconnaissances at low altitudes. He has also been engaged in many encounters with enemy aircraft. At all times he displays skill, courage and devotion to duty. On one occasion, during a photographic flight of three hours, he was attacked by five enemy

machines; in spite of this he successfully exposed fifty plates.

No. 242008 Serjt.-Mech. William James Palmer (Chelsfield, Kent).

A first-class Observer, who has taken part in fifteen bomb raids, displaying at all times great courage and determination. On a recent raid his formation was repeatedly attacked by hostile aircraft; he, nevertheless, under very difficult circumstances, succeeded in taking eighteen good photographs, and also collected much valuable information. In the course of the several engagements he shot down an enemy machine in flames.

J/26800 Serjt. Edmund West Wadey (Polegate, Sussex).

This non-commissioned officer has taken part in forty-three night bombing raids as Gunlayer, and has rendered most consistent and excellent service, deserving of high praise. He sets a fine example to other N.C.O. Observers.

No. 222589 Cpl. Fred Wilkinson (Chorley).

On the 23rd of August, when returning from a bomb raid, this non-commissioned officer's machine was attacked by three enemy aircraft, and, these having been driven off, two others made a second attack. In the engagement Corporal Wilkinson displayed great coolness and judgment in warding off these attacks, driving down one of the machines out of control. He has taken part in forty-two bomb raids, and his experience and example has been of the greatest value to other observers in the squadron.

No. 207013 Air Mech., 2nd Cl. (actg. Cpl.) Horace Walter Williams (Folkestone).

This observer has taken part in forty-three successful raids, showing at all times devotion to duty and affording the most valuable support to his pilot. In a recent engagement, having shot down an aeroplane out of control, he continued in action, although wounded in the left arm, until his ammunition was exhausted, thereby enabling one of our machines, that was heavily attacked, to regain the lines in safety.

P22398 Serjt. Ronald Malcolm Fletcher (attached from Training Res. Bn.).

A most efficient and keen observer, in whom his pilots place implicit confidence. He has taken part in numerous combats with enemy aircraft, and invariably displays marked fearlessness and skill. He has personally accounted for seven enemy machines since 21st May.

AWARDS OF FOREIGN DECORATIONS.

The undermentioned Officers and other ranks of the Royal Air Force have been awarded the Decorations specified, in recognition of distinguished services rendered:—

CONFERRED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC.

Croix de Chevalier, Legion of Honour.

Lieutenant-Colonel William Avery Bishop, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., D.F.C., Canadian Cavalry and Aviation Service.