

balloon. On 17th September, in company with six other machines, this officer took part in an engagement with seventeen hostile aircraft; eight of these were destroyed, Lieut. Amm accounting for one.

Lieut. (A./Capt.) Durban Victor Armstrong.  
(FRANCE)

A brilliant pilot of exceptional skill. His success in night operations has been phenomenal; and the services he renders in training other pilots is of the greatest value, personally supervising their flying and demonstrating the only successful method of attack by night. On the night of 10-11th September, learning that an enemy aeroplane was over our front, he volunteered to go up. The weather conditions were such as to render flying almost impossible, the wind blowing about fifty miles an hour, accompanied by driving rainstorms; despite this, Capt. Armstrong remained on patrol for over an hour, his machine at times being practically out of control. The foregoing is only one of many instances of this officer's remarkable skill and resolution in night operations.

Lieut. (A./Capt.) John Austin-Sparks.  
(FRANCE)

An officer distinguished for gallantry and fine leadership. On 29th September Capt. Austin-Sparks rendered exceptionally fine service. Detailed to carry out an important reconnaissance, he succeeded in reaching his objective and obtaining the necessary information. The opposition he had to encounter was exceptionally heavy and concentrated; his machine was badly damaged, and his observer's gun, with its mounting, was carried away by shell fire. Eventually both he and his observer were wounded. Capt. Austin-Sparks being rendered temporarily unconscious and unable to control his machine. He, however, recovered sufficiently to land his machine safely with the aid of his observer.

2nd Lieut. Thomas Harry Barkell (Austrian F.C.).  
(FRANCE)

Although this officer only joined his squadron some two months ago, his outstanding ability soon qualified him for the leadership of a patrol; and he has already acted as leader in twenty-three offensive flights. His conduct of these patrols, and the results he has achieved, testify to his exceptional enterprise, and fully justifies his early appointment to the responsible position of leader.

Lieut. Bliss Edward Barnum.  
(Sea Patrol, FLANDERS)

In the absence of his flight commander, Lieut. Barnum has since 28th September acted as leader in eleven successful low bombing raids. In these he has shown marked courage and devotion to duty, descending at times to fifty feet altitude. In addition, this officer has destroyed four enemy machines.

Lieut. (A./Capt.) Alexander Beck.  
(FRANCE)

A bold and skilful leader, who has himself shot down four enemy aeroplanes. His personal courage and able leadership have had a marked influence in maintaining the efficiency of the squadron.

Lieut. (A./Capt.) Frank Belway.  
(FRANCE)

A very gallant officer, who is always ready to volunteer for any dangerous duty. During recent operations he has repeatedly brought back most valuable information regarding the development of the situation, flying at very low altitudes and being subjected to heavy hostile fire. On August 25th, during a patrol, he observed an enemy two-seater calling for flares; attacking this machine, he drove it off; the enemy infantry having lit their flares, Lieut. Belway, descending to a very low altitude in face of heavy machine-gun fire, was able to obtain most accurate information as to the location of the enemy line.

2nd Lieut. Harold Frank Birchall (R.E.).  
(FRANCE)

During the recent operations this officer has rendered exceptional service. Sparing no effort to press his balloon forward, he was twice compelled to parachute. On August 27th his balloon was hit by shell fire; nose-diving from about 600 feet he, with great presence of mind, tried to save his balloon by ripping. Although half-stunned by the fall, he at once re-ascended in a fresh balloon. A fine example of determination and devotion to duty.

Lieut. (A./Capt.) Henry Arthur Richard Biziau.  
(FRANCE)

A most successful leader of marked gallantry. During recent operations he has destroyed four enemy aeroplanes and driven down one out of control; two of these he accounted for in one engagement on September 15th with a number of Fokker biplanes. In addition he has driven down a hostile balloon.

Lieut. George Godfrey Leigh Blake, D.C.M.  
(FRANCE)

Throughout the recent operations this officer has rendered most valuable service in face of heavy hostile fire and attacks by enemy aeroplanes, compelling him on three occasions to parachute. He has completed 470 hours in the air, displaying gallantry and initiative of a high order.

(D.C.M. gazetted 18th June, 1917.)

Capt. (A./Maj.) Christopher Joseph Quintin Brand, D.S.O., M.C.  
(FRANCE)

On the night of 15/16th September this officer attacked an enemy aeroplane at 8,000 feet. In the combat that ensued his tracers burst the sump of one of the aeroplane's engines and the oil from it covered his machine in a black spray. Almost blinded by this he still continued the engagement and eventually drove the enemy machine down to 200 ft., when, owing to intense hostile machine-gun fire from the ground, he was compelled to break off the combat. There is every reason to believe that this machine crashed. The foregoing is only one of many gallant deeds performed by this officer, who by his indomitable spirit and example has raised the efficiency of his squadron to a very high level.

(D.S.O. gazetted 31st May, 1918.)

(M.C. gazetted 26th April, 1917.)