

Acting Squadron Leader Francis Joseph SOPER, D.F.M. (44678), No. 257 Squadron.

This officer has displayed the utmost keenness and determination to destroy the enemy. In September, 1941, whilst patrolling over a convoy at dusk, Squadron Leader Soper observed a Junkers 88 diving to attack the convoy. The vessels opened up with considerable anti-aircraft fire. Despite this, Squadron Leader Soper closed in on the attacker and, flying through the barrage, pressed home his attack with the utmost determination, until the enemy aircraft went down into the sea. Squadron Leader Soper has now destroyed fourteen enemy aircraft of which two have been destroyed at night.

Pilot Officer Nigel Leslie Digby KEMP (84941), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 242 Squadron.

Since May, 1941, this officer has participated in twenty-nine operational sorties, fifteen of which have been directed against enemy shipping. Throughout, Pilot Officer Kemp has displayed great courage and initiative combined with a fine fighting spirit. On one occasion, he machine-gunned German troops on the beach at Fort Phillipe causing casualties. On another occasion, when flying alone over the Channel, he attacked a fast enemy launch, from which he had been fired at, silenced its guns and stopped the vessel. Pilot Officer Kemp has contributed materially to the successes achieved by his unit against enemy shipping.

Pilot Officer John Philip McKECHNIE (Aus. 400044), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 242 Squadron (with effect from 28th August, 1941).

This officer has led his section on numerous important daylight attacks on enemy shipping. Displaying great leadership and determination, often in the face of heavy fire from ships and ground defences, Pilot Officer McKechnie has contributed materially to the successes achieved. He has also participated in many fighter sweeps and bomber escorts. On one occasion, Pilot Officer McKechnie was instrumental in guiding a rescue launch to one of our pilots who had been forced to descend into the sea in mid-Channel. Throughout, Pilot Officer McKechnie has shown a high degree of skill and courage.

The KING has also been graciously pleased to give orders for the publication of the name of the undermentioned officer in the London Gazette as having received an expression of Commendation for brave conduct in connection with Civil Defence:—

Flying Officer Frederick Alastair FORBES, M.B., Ch.B. (85605), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

AMENDMENT.

In notification of 24th September, 1941 (p. 5573, col. 2), for Flying Officer E. WALKER, D.F.C. (42285), read Flying Officer E. WALKER, D.F.C. (72963), R.A.F.V.R.

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