

proved a tower of strength. In 1 flight during the battle of El Alamein, Squadron Leader Barber destroyed 3 Junkers 87's. His example has been worthy of high praise.

Flight Lieutenant Derrick Harry CLARKE (40512), No. 250 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in many operational missions both over Northern France and in the Middle East. He has invariably displayed great courage and determination while his excellent work has contributed materially to the successes obtained. On one occasion, following a determined attack on an enemy airfield, Flight Lieutenant Clarke landed in very rough terrain and under shell fire, and picked up a pilot of his formation who had been forced to make a crash landing. He afterwards flew safely back to base. He has destroyed 2 enemy aircraft, 1 of them at night.

Flight Lieutenant James Gordon COLE (41665).

This officer has completed a large number of operational missions, involving long and arduous flights over heavily defended areas. He has at all times displayed great skill and courage, setting an example which has proved an inspiration to the flight he commands.

Flight Lieutenant Frank Ronald SCHAAF (Aus.3288), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 450 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has taken part in many operational sorties and has destroyed 3 enemy aircraft in combat. During the advance into Tripoli he led the squadron with great distinction. On one occasion, when attacking Castel Benito, he destroyed an enemy aircraft on the ground. Two days later, Flight Lieutenant SchAAF led a formation in an attack on 5 Focke Wulf 190s, 3 of which were destroyed.

Flight Lieutenant Robert Rutherford SMITH (40952), 112 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Smith is a courageous fighter. In October, 1942, on his first sortie with the squadron, he shot down 1 of 4 Messerschmitts which were intercepted. Some days later, during a bombing sortie, he destroyed an Italian aircraft after evading an enemy fighter which had pursued him. In December, 1942, Flight Lieutenant Smith destroyed 2 enemy aircraft on 1 sortie, bringing his total victories to 8. He has displayed great keenness and determination.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Colin Francis CAMPBELL (102986), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 109 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant John TURNBULL (77980), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 109 Squadron.

One night in January, 1943, Flight Lieutenants Campbell and Turnbull were captain and navigator respectively of an aircraft attacking Dusseldorf. During the run up to the target the aircraft commenced to vibrate violently but, in the face of great difficulties, Flight Lieutenant Campbell resolutely completed his attack. Immediately afterwards the starboard engine caught fire and became unserviceable. On the homeward flight, when nearing the Dutch coast, the port engine lost some power, causing the aircraft to lose height. Despite this, Flight Lieutenant Campbell flew the aircraft back and made a safe landing at an airfield in this country. Throughout, Flight Lieutenant Turnbull displayed navigation of the highest order which contributed materially to the safe return of the aircraft. Both these officers set a fine example of courage and devotion to duty.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Gordon William TROKE (Can/J.15777), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 250 Squadron.

This officer has skilfully led both his flight and the squadron in many sorties. He has destroyed 3 enemy aircraft, 2 of which he shot down on 1 sortie; he has also assisted in the destruction of 2 more enemy aircraft. Flight Lieutenant Troke has invariably displayed great keenness and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer William Thomas Hicks GILL (Can/J.7766), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 73 Squadron.

Flying Officer Gill has taken an outstanding part in the squadron's night flying operations and, during the operations leading up to the fall of Tripoli, achieved many excellent results from low level attacks. Throughout, his cheerfulness, determination and fine fighting spirit have set a splendid example to all.

Flying Officer Arthur Gordon HUNTER (Can/J.3994), Royal Canadian Air Force.

During the last five months Flying Officer Hunter has taken part in very long flights in single engine aircraft over sea and heavily defended areas. He has had to come down low to photograph enemy targets on several occasions. By his skill and personal bravery most valuable information has been obtained.

Flying Officer James MCGILL (64899), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 73 Squadron.

Since the campaign for Tripoli began this officer has flown on many sorties including reconnaissances and low level attacks on enemy transport. On one occasion in November, 1942, during a low flying attack on enemy motor transport, his aircraft was severely damaged by opposing fire from the ground. Although 2 of his petrol tanks were pierced, Flying Officer McGill flew his damaged aircraft safely to base. He has displayed great courage and determination and inflicted much damage to enemy mechanised transport.

Lieutenant George LLOYD (P.9306), South African Air Force, No. 40 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in numerous reconnaissance missions, displaying great skill and tenacity. On one occasion in November, 1942, he was the pilot of 1 of 2 aircraft which were intercepted by a number of enemy aircraft over the El Agheila area. During the ensuing fight his comrade was shot down but Lieutenant Lloyd, although his own aircraft was damaged, continuously engaged the enemy fighters. Thus his comrade was enabled to land his crippled aircraft safely and later to rejoin his squadron. Throughout, Lieutenant Lloyd displayed great courage and determination.

Lieutenant Frederick WELGEMOED (P.5843), South African Air Force, No. 40 (S.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Lieutenant Welgemoed has completed a large number of tactical reconnaissance sorties. Although he has been intercepted by the enemy several times and has once been shot down, his enthusiasm and determination for operational flying are undiminished. This officer has displayed exceptional powers of leadership and courage. His reconnaissance work has proved of great value.

Pilot Officer Desmond IBBOTSON (129238), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 601 Squadron.

In the campaign in the Western Desert, Pilot Officer Ibbotson has flown with great distinction and has destroyed at least 7 enemy aircraft. Throughout, his keenness and determination have been inspiring. On one occasion, he crash-landed near Mersa Matruh but, aided by friendly Arabs, he was enabled to rejoin his unit.

Pilot Officer Michael Selwyn JONES (129142), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 73 Squadron.

Throughout his operational career this officer has displayed great skill and keenness. In the campaign in the Western Desert he has taken part in many operations against enemy ground targets. Pressing home his attacks from low level, he has caused the destruction of a large number of trucks and vehicles. Throughout, his untiring efforts and high morale have set an inspiring example.

Pilot Officer Lionel James SHEPPARD (135170), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 260 Squadron.

During the advance in the Western Desert this officer participated in a large number of sorties, including many low bombing and machine gun attacks. In combat, Pilot Officer Sheppard has destroyed 3 enemy aircraft. On one occasion he took part in an engagement against a force of 5 Messerschmitt 109s, all of which were destroyed, 1 of them by Pilot Officer Sheppard. Throughout, this officer has displayed great skill and daring.

Pilot Officer Duncan Roy WISEMAN (Can/J.15778), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 73 Squadron.

Throughout the operations beginning in October, 1942, this officer has participated in a large number of sorties and patrols over enemy territory. He has always pressed home his attacks regardless of the opposition encountered. Pilot Officer Wiseman has made many highly successful attacks on moonlight nights at a very low level, destroying much enemy transport. He has always displayed outstanding keenness and a fine fighting spirit.