

destroyed and 3 more damaged, Lieutenant Commander Douglas displayed brilliant leadership and great determination. By his outstanding efficiency and fearless example, this officer has contributed materially to the fine fighting qualities of the squadron he commands.

Flight Lieutenant Graham Lloyd MANDENO (64937), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 156 Squadron.

This officer has completed 29 sorties and has displayed outstanding efficiency and determination. One night in June, 1943, he piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Munster. During the flight, the bomber was attacked by an enemy fighter but, although damage was sustained, making the bomber difficult to control, Flight Lieutenant Mandeno continued to the target and bombed it. Five nights later, when returning from an attack on Cologne, his aircraft was hit by gunfire from an enemy aircraft. The elevator and the tailplane were damaged, one of the port engines was put out of action and a petrol tank was pierced. Despite this, Flight Lieutenant Mandeno flew the bomber to base. On both these occasions, this officer displayed superb airmanship and great courage.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Franz Ferdinand COLLOREDO-MANSFIELD (112005), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 611 Squadron.

This officer is a most determined fighter and leader. He has led his flight, and on occasions the squadron, on 81 operational sorties during which he has shown great skill and keenness. He has destroyed 1 enemy aircraft.

Acting Flight Lieutenant John Christopher WELLS (45883), No. 609 Squadron.

This officer has completed many hours flying, involving sorties both by day and by night. He has achieved much success in attacks on enemy lines of communication, while in air combat he has destroyed at least 3 enemy aircraft, 2 of which he shot down in one engagement. Flight Lieutenant Wells has displayed commendable courage and tenacity.

Flying Officer Cyril Wallace BURCHER (Aus.411737), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 86 Squadron.

This officer has completed numerous sorties during which he has attacked 10 U boats. In his last engagement in June, 1943, Flying Officer Burcher pressed home his attack with great determination in the face of severe gunfire from the vessel. His keenness and ability have been reflected in the high standard of operational efficiency of his crew.

Flying Officer Alan Keay HODGE (132987), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 227 Squadron.

Flying Officer Hodge has shown great enthusiasm and daring during his operational missions. He has taken part in numerous sorties which have included shipping strikes and low level bombing and machine gun attacks against targets in Sicily and Tunis. He has destroyed 1 enemy aircraft of 6 which have been shot down by members of the crew of his aircraft.

Flying Officer George Newby IRVING (121046), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 85 Squadron.

This officer has completed a very large number of hours flying on operations. He is an observer of exceptional merit and has shared in the destruction of 2 enemy aircraft at night. His example of keenness and devotion to duty has been worthy of high praise.

Flying Officer Irving Farmer KENNEDY (Can/J.15273), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 249 Squadron.

This officer has completed much operational flying, involving bomber escort flights, sweeps and bombing sorties. During an operation in April, 1943, Flying Officer Kennedy shot down a Junkers 52. A little later, he saw many of these aircraft flying almost at sea level. Flying Officer Kennedy immediately attacked 1 of them, causing it to dive into the water with one engine on fire. This officer, who has destroyed 5 enemy aircraft, has invariably displayed great keenness.

Flying Officer Arthur LEE-WHITE (121791), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 263 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in numerous and varied offensive operations, a number of which have been at night. His sorties have included attacks on shipping and industrial targets. On one occasion, when attacking enemy vessels in convoy, the starboard engine in his aircraft was

set on fire. Undaunted, he bombed an armed trawler before successfully flying back to this country where he made a safe landing while the fire still burned in the engine. Flying Officer Lee-White has shown complete contempt for enemy opposition and has always pressed home his attacks with great determination.

Flying Officer Allen John PHILLIPS (Aus.401172), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 227 Squadron.

Flying Officer Phillips has completed numerous operational sorties, including several successful shipping strikes and low level attacks on enemy communications in Tunisia and Sicily. He has also attacked several formations of enemy aircraft between Tunis and Sicily. In May, 1943, he was flying in one of 3 aircraft which attacked 5 Junkers 52s and 5 Arado 196s. In the ensuing engagement Flying Officer Phillips shot down 1 enemy aircraft and later attacked and probably sank a 120 ton vessel. A few days later he participated in the destruction of a further 2 hostile aircraft and an 80 ton caïque. On all occasions this officer has displayed a fine fighting spirit and great devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Cyril Lionel Francis TALALLA (130674), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 118 Squadron.

This officer has participated in a large number of sorties and has led his section with great skill and keenness. He has destroyed 1 enemy aircraft.

Flying Officer William Allan THYNNE, M.M., B.E.M. (129528), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 272 Squadron.

This officer is an outstanding air observer. He has participated in many and varied operational missions which have included low level machine gun attacks on enemy communications, and night intruder patrols over Sicily and Southern Italy. In May, 1943, when flying on a reconnaissance near the Sicilian coast his aircraft was attacked by a large number of enemy fighters. One hostile aircraft was damaged by fire from this officer's guns and after a combat lasting 15 minutes, during which he gave most clear and accurate directions to his pilot, the enemy withdrew without scoring a hit. Flying Officer Thynne's efficient and reliable navigation has contributed materially to the successful completion of many operations while his courage and enthusiasm have been a source of inspiration to the other members of his squadron.

Flying Officer Thomas Richard WILBY (Can/J.15138), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 78 Squadron.

In air operations this officer displayed courage, fortitude and skill of the highest order.

Flying Officer Frederick Cyril Derrick WRIGHT (116512), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 254 Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties, involving escort duties, reconnaissances and attacks on shipping. He is a fearless pilot, whose keenness and efficiency have set a fine example.

Pilot Officer Maxwell Tylvey COTTON (Aus.408204), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 263 Squadron, (since missing).

Pilot Officer Cotton has taken part in numerous and varied operational missions, some of which have been completed at night. His sorties have included dive bombing attacks on enemy airfields, attacks on railway objectives and against shipping in convoy. On 3 occasions his aircraft has been seriously damaged by anti-aircraft fire, but he did not fail to fly back to this country and to land safely. Pilot Officer Cotton has displayed a complete disregard of intense enemy opposition and has at all times pressed home his attacks with the greatest determination.

Pilot Officer Clifford Campbell STOVEL (Can/J.16835), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 408 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed many sorties including attacks on well defended targets in the Ruhr. He is a skilful and enterprising captain, whose example has proved inspiring. One night in April, 1943, he piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Duisberg. Whilst over the target area, 1 engine became unserviceable but, in spite of this, Pilot Officer Stovel pressed home a vigorous attack. Immediately afterwards, the bomber was hit by anti-aircraft fire and temporarily went out of control losing considerable height. Pilot Officer Stovel skilfully regained control, however, and eventually flew the aircraft to base. He displayed great skill and coolness in the face of a most trying situation.