

Acting Flight Lieutenant Ronald THOMSON (113866), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 154 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in numerous sorties in the Middle East theatre during which he has invariably displayed courage and determination of a high order. During the last 2 campaigns he has led his flight with distinction. Flight Lieutenant Thomson has shared in the destruction of 1 enemy aircraft, and has inflicted damage to enemy ground targets.

Flying Officer Eric James SHAW (N.Z.411457), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 72 Squadron.

This officer is a skilful and determined fighter whose courage and keenness have set an inspiring example. Flying Officer Shaw has displayed outstanding ability when attacking ground targets. On one occasion he destroyed or damaged every vehicle in a motor transport column. In recent North African and Sicilian operations he has destroyed 3 enemy aircraft.

Pilot Officer Rex Howard PROBERT (Can/J.16848), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 92 Squadron.

One day in July, 1943, this officer in company with a pilot in another aircraft engaged a formation of more than 12 enemy fighters over Catania airfield. In the engagement, 2 of the enemy aircraft were destroyed and another was seriously damaged. Pilot Officer Probert personally destroyed 1 and damaged another. The enemy force, greatly superior in number, was so completely outflown that this pilot and his companion were able to return to base with both aircraft unscathed. Pilot Officer Probert has always set himself a high standard in flying and his courage and determination have been of the highest order.

Warrant Officer Kenneth George HALL (754606), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 284 Squadron.

Warrant Officer Hall displayed commendable courage, skill and devotion to duty when on a recent occasion he rescued 2 pilots from their dinghies. His example is worthy of the highest praise

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant Lionel Oscar BARNETT (67038), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 259 Squadron.

Flying Officer Clarence Ernest ROBIN (Can/J.12571), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 265 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

575329 Sergeant Kenneth Vane Savaria CALIGARI, Royal Air Force, No. 259 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Barnett and Sergeant Caligari were captain and 1st wireless operator respectively of a Catalina aircraft engaged in a search for enemy submarines in the Indian Ocean. Sighting a surfaced U-boat, Flight Lieutenant Barnett carried out a most determined attack in the face of opposing fire from the submarine's guns. The vessel listed to port and dived. Forty minutes later the U-boat re-surfaced but, as Flight Lieutenant Barnett had expended his explosives Sergeant Caligari signalled for a relief aircraft to attack, and he displayed commendable skill in directing the second aircraft to the scene where it arrived after 4 hours. Throughout this period Flight Lieutenant Barnett maintained constant contact with the submarine. The second Catalina was captained by Flying Officer Robin, who made a determined and accurate attack and finally sank the submarine. Successful photographs of the attack were taken. This success which was so worthily earned was due to the courage and complete co-operation between these members of aircraft crew.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Flight Lieutenant Maurice MORLEY (135477), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 224 Squadron.

Flying Officer Eric Trelawny BATCHELOR (Can/J.10594), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 224 Squadron.

Warrant Officer Robert William LOWE (955495), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 224 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

Aus.405872 Flight Sergeant Bryce Campbell McMURTIE, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 224 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Morley was the gunnery leader whilst Warrant Officer Lowe and Flight Sergeant McMurtie were wireless operators/air gunners in a Liberator aircraft captained by Flying Officer Batchelor during an anti-submarine patrol over the Bay of Biscay in September, 1943. During the flight the aircraft was attacked for over an hour by 6 Junkers 88's. Throughout the engagement the masterly evasive tactics executed by Flying Officer Batchelor enabled the Liberator to emerge having sustained only 2 hits whilst the accurate return fire of Warrant Officer Lowe and Flight Sergeant McMurtie skilfully controlled by Flight Lieutenant Morley enabled one of the enemy aircraft to be destroyed. The cool determination and co-operation displayed by these members of aircraft crew was worthy of the highest praise.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

925002 Flight Sergeant Howard Arthur CLIFFORD, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 236 Squadron.

Flight Sergeant Clifford has flown as navigator on 46 operational sorties. When participating in an attack against heavily armed enemy mine-sweepers, he was wounded by shrapnel in the head and eyes. Nevertheless he continued his navigational duties and at the same time took photographs of the enemy vessels until he became unconscious. This airman displayed great fortitude and devotion to duty.

1095982 Sergeant James ALDERDICE, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 51 Squadron.

1074684 Sergeant William HUGHES, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 102 Squadron.

1440300 Sergeant David Latimer JONES, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 51 Squadron.

In air operations, these airmen have displayed great courage and fortitude setting an example of the highest order.

656367 Sergeant Denis John LUNN, Royal Air Force, No. 284 Squadron.

This airman has achieved much success in rescuing members of aircraft crew from their dinghies. On one day in August, 1943, he rescued 3 pilots. Sergeant Lunn has displayed great keenness, courage and devotion to duty.

1388495 Sergeant Leslie Robert WRIGHT, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 156 Squadron.

One night in August, 1943, Sergeant Wright was the mid-upper gunner of an aircraft which attacked Berlin. At the commencement of the attack the bomber was hit by anti-aircraft fire which wounded the navigator and seriously injured Sergeant Wright. Immediately afterwards the aircraft was attacked by an enemy fighter. Despite his wounds, Sergeant Wright returned the fire and with one long burst drove the attacker away. This airman displayed skill and cool determination whilst his conduct during the remainder of the flight was exemplary.

Can/R.106299 Sergeant Bruce Martin BERVEN, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 40 Squadron.

This airman, who has completed 27 sorties, is a most determined and skilful captain of aircraft. He has taken part in attacks against targets in Tunisia, Pantelleria, Sicily and Italy. On the night of the invasion of Sicily he delivered an accurate low-level attack on the seaplane base at Syracuse an operation which demanded great skill and determination.

Can/R.90395 Sergeant Richard Royden DAVEY, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 178 Squadron.

In July, 1943, this airman was the rear gunner of a Halifax aircraft detailed to attack Reggio de Calabria. Shortly before reaching the target the bomber was attacked by a Junkers 88 and sustained much damage, the intercommunication system was put out of action and the left tail elevator was forced down. The enemy aircraft made one continuous attack and finally closed to within 50 yards. Sergeant Davey, who had coolly withheld his fire, then delivered one long burst which caused the attacker to explode and fall into the sea in flames. Sergeant Davey's coolness and skill, when under fire, contributed much to the safe return of his aircraft.