

Lt. (temp. Capt.) Thomas Leigh Simpson\*  
(Australian Flying Corps).

An officer of exceptional ability, courage and determination.

He has directed our artillery fire on forty occasions on hostile batteries, and has taken over 500 photographs of enemy positions.

He was attacked by six triplanes on one occasion whilst engaged in photographing the enemy positions, and managed to hold his own until our scouts drove them off. Later, he was again attacked by a large enemy formation, but he skilfully out-maneuvred them.

Recently, whilst on patrol, he located eight enemy batteries, upon which he directed a concentration of our artillery fire. On this occasion he was wounded by anti-aircraft fire whilst flying low.

Lt. (T./Capt.) James Anderson Slater,  
M.C.\*

This officer has led numerous offensive patrols with the utmost skill and determination, and it is entirely due to his fine leadership that many enemy aircraft have been destroyed with the minimum of casualties to his formation.

Lt. (T./Capt.) William Dorian Thom.

A gallant and capable leader in long-distance night bombing raids, in eighteen of which he has taken part during a period of six weeks.

During the last raid his formation was attacked by thirteen enemy machines, but he nevertheless managed to drop his bombs on his objective, direct hits being obtained, and he also succeeded in destroying an enemy aeroplane.

Capt. (T./Major) Gordon Lindsay Thomson,  
D S.C.

This officer has carried out 340 hours flying, and has taken part in fourteen bombing raids. In one of the latter he led his formation to destroy a bridge over a canal; he flew at a considerable altitude over the objective, watching each machine drop its bombs, and endeavoured to observe the results. After all his machines had completed the raid and departed for the lines, he glided down and passed over the bridge at 140 feet altitude. In face of very severe machine-gun fire he crossed and re-crossed the objective in order to ascertain the results obtained. No material damage being apparent, he flew across it again at 100 feet altitude, dropping his bombs in a final attempt to destroy the bridge. He is a fine leader, and the excellent spirit in his squadron is largely due to his personal example.

Lt. (T./Capt.) John Todd, M.C. (formerly  
No. 70 Sqn.).

With four other officers he engaged ten enemy scouts, shooting down one; later, on the same day, he shot down another in flames. In addition to these, during the last two months he has shot down seven enemy machines. His gallantry in leading his flight into action against enemy patrols of superior numbers has been an inspiring example.

(The announcement of award of Military Cross will appear in a later Gazette.)

Lt. Joseph Mordue Todd (Observer).

This officer has taken part in eight successful long-distance bombing raids, displaying great courage and determination, combined with skill of very marked character. On one occasion his was the only machine out of seven that reached the objective, which was successfully bombed.

Lt. Ernest Franklin Van Der Riet.

This officer has taken part in thirty-eight raids, showing consistent determination and skill. During one raid the formation, of which he was the leader, was attacked, when over the objective, by twenty-five enemy aeroplanes, and a running fight ensued to our lines, a distance of forty miles. By his skilful and resolute leadership he brought his formation back safely, destroying two enemy aeroplanes.

Lt. Christoffel Johannes Venter.

During recent operations this officer shot down five enemy aeroplanes, one of which he followed down to 500 feet, when it was seen to fall.

He is a bold and skilful airman.

Lt. Herbert Gillis Watson (Australian  
Flying Corps).

Whilst on offensive patrol he encountered several Pfalz scouts, one of which he shot down. He has also in three weeks shot down four enemy machines and destroyed a balloon, attacking the latter at 6,000 feet, following it down to 1,000 feet, when it burst into flames.

Lt. David John Weston.

A bold and skilful airman, who has accounted for six enemy machines.

He has been generally engaged against superior numbers and always with success.

Lt. (temp. Capt.) Alfred Harold Whistler.\*

A very courageous and enterprising patrol leader, who has rendered valuable services. He has done exceptionally good work in attacking ground targets, which he engages at very low altitudes.

During the past month his patrol attacked eight enemy scouts who were flying above him. He attacked a triplane and brought it down in a crash, and whilst thus himself engaged another of his pilots destroyed a second enemy machine. The remainder of the enemy formation were then driven off.

Lt. Joseph Leonard Maries White (late  
Canadian Machine Gun Corps).

This officer is distinguished for his bravery and dash in action, never hesitating to attack, regardless of the enemy's numerical superiority. He has destroyed three enemy aircraft and driven down two out of control. In addition he has carried out most valuable reconnaissance service at low altitudes.

2nd Lt. John McKimmie Young, D.S.M.

A gallant and enterprising bomb-dropper, who has been engaged in thirty-nine raids with excellent results.

Many direct hits were obtained in these raids, causing great explosions in enemy war factories and docks.