

deputy-leaders of our formations were shot down, and the remaining machines lost touch with each other. At this critical moment 2nd Lieut. Pogson ordered his observer to tie his handkerchief to the gun-mounting to indicate that his was the leader's machine. He then circled over the area three times and picked up five of our machines, and in face of very hostile opposition got them into formation and brought them all safely home. The prompt action of this officer was highly meritorious, and undoubtedly saved the remaining machines, which could not have coped with the greatly superior formations of the enemy.

Lieut. (T./Capt.) Walter George Preston.

This officer has taken part in seventy bombing raids, and has rendered most valuable service on reconnaissance duty by night. One night he carried out three most successful bombing raids on hostile rest billets, dropping his bombs and engaging the enemy troops with great effect. He sets an excellent example of skill and gallantry.

2nd Lieut. Hartly Pullan.

This officer has taken part in numerous long-distance bombing raids and reconnaissances. His work has been consistently good. On a recent occasion when on photographic reconnaissance he was attacked by three scouts; he shot one down and the other two dived away. A few minutes later he was again attacked, this time by five triplanes, one of which he shot down out of control.

Lieut. (T./Capt.) John Steele Ralston, M.C. (Scottish Rifles, T.F.).

An intrepid patrol leader who in recent operations has accounted for three enemy machines and three kite balloons. Recently while on patrol he advanced to attack a kite balloon; on his approach the balloon party began to haul it down, but forcing home his attack, he shot the balloon down in flames. In the engagement this officer was seriously wounded. Suffering great pain, he flew back to our lines and tried to land, but fainted and crashed.

2nd Lieut. Cyril Lancelot Rayment.

This officer has taken part in thirty-five successful operations, and his work throughout has been distinguished by clearness, accuracy of observation and disregard of danger, notably on one occasion when he was observer to the leader of our first formation which was vigorously attacked by four hostile machines. In spite of this the formation was led over the target, which was effectively bombed. Subsequently the formation was attacked by five hostile machines, but owing to skilful leadership the fire of our observers was so well controlled and directed that the enemy were kept at a distance and the formation returned in safety.

Lieut. (Hon. Capt.) Robert Redfern (Sea Patrol).

A zealous and very able observer who has carried out extremely valuable photographic reconnaissances on enemy country and bases. He has also taken part in many long-distance bombing raids on important enemy towns

Lieut. Norman Roberts.

This officer has destroyed three enemy machines and driven down two others out of control. He has also distinguished himself in attacking troops at low altitudes, and has carried out valuable reconnaissance service. Detailed to make a reconnaissance of an important area, he realised, on crossing our lines, that the wind was almost at hurricane strength, and that in face of such a wind his return journey would only be accomplished with extreme difficulty. However, knowing the urgency of his mission, he completed his reconnaissance, penetrating 12 miles behind the enemy lines. On the return journey, owing to the strength of the gale, he was forced to descend to a very low altitude, and was subjected to heavy anti-aircraft and machine-gun fire, which badly damaged his machine.

Lieut. Indra Lal Roy.

A very gallant and determined officer, who in thirteen days accounted for nine enemy machines. In these several engagements he has displayed remarkable skill and daring, on more than one occasion accounting for two machines in one patrol.

Lieut. (T./Capt.) Thomas Sydney Sharpe (Glouc. Regt.).

A gallant officer who has always led his patrol with marked skill and judgment. On one occasion he chased down an Albatross scout and caused it to crash. He afterwards attacked five enemy machines, destroying two. On the following day, encountering four Albatross scouts, he engaged one, which crashed. Proceeding on his patrol, he met a formation of enemy scouts; he chased one and destroyed it.

Lieut. Richard George Shaw (Sea Patrol).

In company with another machine he recently attacked seven enemy seaplanes and destroyed one of them. Lieut. Shaw has shown exceptional ability as a flight leader. He has carried out successfully 21 bombing raids, 51 anti-submarine patrols, and has descended to very low altitudes to attack hostile submarines, destroyers and trawlers, scoring at least two direct hits. This officer displays great determination and keenness in his work.

Lieut. (T./Capt.) Benjamin James Silly, M.C.

For exceptional skill and gallantry on long-distance raids, in 47 of which he has been engaged, and has been the leader on 22 occasions. Within the past month he led a formation of bombers which accomplished their object notwithstanding that the enemy scouts were encountered almost from the start, and at the destination they numbered 40 machines. Capt. Silly's formation destroyed four enemy aircraft, and returned without losing a single machine.

Lieut. Frank Woolley Smith (Notts. & Derby. Regiment, T.F.).

This officer has carried out most valuable work in observing for our artillery from kite balloons. On one occasion his balloon was brought down in flames; his parachute did not open properly, and he fell very rapidly: fortunately, a tree broke his fall and saved