

objectives in the face of intense opposing fire. Throughout, this officer has set a magnificent example. He has destroyed 4 hostile aircraft.

Flight Lieutenant The Hon. David Arthur COKE (73042), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 80 Squadron (since missing).

This officer participated in an attack on enemy transport on the El-Adem-Acroma road one day in November, 1941, in which a large number of vehicles, tanks and mechanised transport were bombed and machine-gunned. The damage inflicted played a very large part in the blocking of the road. By his skill and leadership, Flight Lieutenant Coke contributed materially to the success achieved. In addition to the low flying machine-gunning operations which have been carried out, Flight Lieutenant Coke has led the squadron with great success in air combat. During an engagement 2 days later, the squadron shared in the destruction of 5 Messerschmitt 109's.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Clive Robertson CALDWELL (Aus.402107), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 250 Squadron.

This officer has performed splendid work in the Middle East operations. He has at all times shown dogged determination and high devotion to duty which have proved an inspiration to his fellow pilots. On one occasion, during a patrol, he was attacked by 2 Messerschmitt 109's. His aircraft was badly damaged, while he himself received wounds on his face, arms and legs. Nevertheless, he courageously returned to the attack and shot down one of the hostile aircraft. Flight Lieutenant Caldwell has destroyed at least 4 enemy aircraft.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Anthony SPOONER (82948), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

One night in November, 1941, this officer was the captain of an aircraft co-operating with our naval forces in the Ionian Sea. Extremely unfavourable weather conditions prevailed, clouds being down almost to sea level but, in spite of this, Flight Lieutenant Spooner carried out a search extending for some 300 miles of open sea. Flight Lieutenant Spooner succeeded in locating 2 convoys, each consisting of a merchant vessel and a destroyer, and it was entirely due to his skill and persistence in the face of great odds that a naval force was directed to the target and thus able to destroy the convoys. In October, 1941, Flight Lieutenant Spooner attacked an 8,000 ton enemy merchant vessel, setting it on fire. Two nights later, he shadowed a convoy which was subsequently attacked by our naval aircraft and 3 merchant vessels were seriously damaged. During October and November, 1941, this officer was successful in locating 3 enemy convoys and, as a result of attacks by our aircraft, several enemy ships were set on fire and others were damaged. In the latest attack, which was on 4 ships, only 1 was to be seen the next day. Throughout, this officer has displayed exceptional skill and determination.

Flying Officer Paul Temple COTTON (89762), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 208 Squadron.

One day in November, 1941, this officer carried out an extremely important recon-

naissance. During the flight his aircraft was attacked by 2 Messerschmitt 109's, but flying Officer Cotton drove them off and flew on to complete his task. His skill, coolness and courage enabled him to obtain information of vital importance.

Flying Officer Frank FISCHER (Aus. 626), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 3 Squadron.

In November, 1941, this officer was returning alone from a patrol, a defect having arisen in the airscrew which caused the windscreen of his aircraft to be completely covered with oil, when he saw a force of 9 Messerschmitt 109's about to machine-gun aircraft on one of our forward landing grounds. Despite the handicap imposed by his lack of vision, Flying Officer Fischer engaged and destroyed one of the hostile aircraft and attacked 3 of the others before he was compelled to abandon his own aircraft. By his skill and initiative, Flying Officer Fischer completely broke up the enemy attack thereby saving the aircraft based on the landing ground.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Pilot Officer Jeffry Campbell Ross HOOPER (89777), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

*Bar to the Distinguished Flying Medal.*

521280 Sergeant Leonard Robert PAGE, D.F.M.

One day in December, 1941, Pilot Officer Hooper was the pilot of an aircraft detailed to carry out a reconnaissance mission. Whilst over the Benghazi area, the aircraft was subjected to anti-aircraft fire and Pilot Officer Hooper was dangerously wounded in the neck, and became temporarily paralysed and was unable to speak. Sergeant Page thereupon took over the dual control and flew the aircraft back to base. Before reaching the aerodrome, Sergeant Page asked the rest of the crew whether they preferred to escape by parachute or stay with the aircraft; they all elected to stay. Pilot Officer Hooper was by now conscious but extremely weak. Nevertheless, when asked if he could manage to land the aircraft, he shook the controls to indicate that he could. Sergeant Page then directed his pilot down and, despite conditions of poor visibility and a heavy dust storm, a safe landing was made. In spite of his wound and weakened condition, Pilot Officer Hooper displayed outstanding determination and, aided by the initiative and exemplary conduct of Sergeant Page, was undoubtedly responsible for saving both the aircraft and its crew.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

774070 Sergeant Amichia HONIG, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 14 Squadron.

In December, 1941, this airman was detailed to participate in an attack on concentrations of armed fighting vehicles and enemy transports. Despite adverse weather conditions, Sergeant Honig displayed the greatest determination to complete his task and finally carried out a most successful attack from a very low altitude. By his keenness and tenacity, this airman has been able to cause considerable damage and destruction to the enemy's armed fighting forces.