

Tobruk. At least 4 of the raiding aircraft were destroyed, of which Squadron Leader Hanbury destroyed 1. This officer continued to engage the enemy until his aircraft was so extensively damaged that he was compelled to land. Throughout, he displayed magnificent leadership and courage. Squadron Leader Hanbury has destroyed at least 5 enemy aircraft.

Acting Squadron Leader Rhys Henry THOMAS (83282), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 129 Squadron.

This officer is a squadron commander of outstanding merit. He has participated in a large number of sorties against the enemy with success. During the period he has acted as flight or squadron commander, his unit has destroyed at least 17 hostile aircraft. Squadron Leader Thomas has at all times displayed great skill, sound judgment and reliability.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Arthur Brian WHEELER (Can/J.4813), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 226 Squadron.

In April, 1942, Flight Lieutenant Wheeler was the leader of the second section of a formation of Boston aircraft detailed to attack the docks at Le Havre. Despite very intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire, by which his aircraft was repeatedly hit, Flight Lieutenant Wheeler pressed home his attack. Immediately after releasing his bombs, the port engine failed, through damage by anti-aircraft fire, and he was forced to leave the formation and follow behind. Steadily losing height, Flight Lieutenant Wheeler skilfully flew his damaged aircraft back to base. His skill and perseverance contributed largely to the safe return of a valuable aircraft and crew. In September, 1941, at low level and in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire, he attacked and sank a flak ship of between 800 and 1,000 tons, which was escorting a convoy. Flight Lieutenant Wheeler has displayed courage, keenness and devotion to duty which have contributed largely to the successes achieved. He has set a fine example.

Flying Officer Ernest Hopwood BADCOCK (84717), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 226 Squadron.

In April, 1942, this officer was the navigator and bomb aimer in the leading aircraft of a formation of 6 which attacked the power station at Le Havre. Before the target was reached, intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered. Shell splinters damaged the air speed indicator and other instruments in the pilot's cockpit and also smashed through the observer's window, injuring Flying Officer Badcock. This did not prevent him from continuing to direct his pilot to the target and delivering his attack. Flying Officer Badcock has participated in many other successful sorties in which he has shown outstanding ability as a navigator. His calmness and quiet efficiency in the face of danger have set an excellent example.

Pilot Officer Robert Wendell MCNAIR (Can/J.4745), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 249 Squadron.

This officer is a skilful and courageous pilot. He invariably presses home his attacks

with the greatest determination irrespective of the odds. He has destroyed at least 5 and damaged 7 enemy aircraft; 4 of these he damaged in 1 combat.

Pilot Officer Angus Frederick TAYLOR (116524), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 9 Squadron.

One night in April, 1942, this officer captained an aircraft which attacked Rostock successfully. On the return journey his aircraft was attacked by an enemy fighter, fire from which killed the rear gunner and inflicted much damage to the aircraft, causing the rear turret to catch fire. At this time the second pilot was at the controls but Pilot Officer Taylor, although wounded in the back, immediately occupied his seat and regained control of the aircraft which was diving towards the sea. Skilfully evading a further attack from the enemy, who then broke off the engagement, Pilot Officer Taylor set course for base although a fire was blazing fiercely at the stern of the fuselage. Despite the efforts of other members of the crew, the flames could not be entirely subdued, but Pilot Officer Taylor continued his course and, displaying great skill, he finally flew his almost uncontrollable aircraft back to this country where he landed safely with the undercarriage retracted. In the face of extremely difficult and harassing circumstances, this officer, despite physical pain due to his wounds, displayed great skill and gallantry. He has completed numerous sorties and he has always shown great thoroughness and determination to complete his tasks.

Pilot Officer Frederick Wingate WALKER (48154), No. 608 Squadron.

This officer has completed numerous sorties, including attacks on the enemy's shipping, ports and aerodromes. Undeterred by the heaviest opposition, he has invariably pressed home his attacks with vigour. During recent attacks, he has scored hits on destroyers, an armed ship and on supply vessels. In May, 1942, during a patrol off the Norwegian coast, he observed a destroyer and 4 mine-sweepers. Skilfully approaching the destroyer, he made a low level attack on it releasing his bombs from a height of only 100 feet. It is believed that 3 hits were obtained. This officer has at all times shown outstanding courage and keenness.

Pilot Officer John Robert Nassau MOLESWORTH (Aus. 400520), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 114 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Edmund Francis Keith DENNY (106048), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 114 Squadron.

One night in April, 1942, Pilot Officers Molesworth and Denny were the pilot and observer respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Eindhoven aerodrome. On the outward journey, the air gunner reported that his guns would not fire. Despite the danger of interception by enemy fighters, Pilot Officer Molesworth flew on to his allotted target, which he bombed from 2,000 feet. On the return journey, his aircraft was attacked by an enemy fighter and sustained much damage. The instrument panel was shot away, the wireless rendered unserviceable and the hydraulics put out of action, while a large hole was torn in the floor of