

Flight Lieutenant Robert Leith MCGREGOR (43105), No. 298 Squadron.

In June, 1942, whilst on reconnaissance duties near Bir Hacheim, Flight Lieutenant McGregor encountered 4 Messerschmitt 109's which attacked separately. Displaying skilful airmanship he accepted the challenge of each aircraft in turn and destroyed 1. His own aircraft sustained severe damage. With the remaining 3 enemy fighters still pursuing him, he flew towards El Adem where his aircraft crashed in flames. Flight Lieutenant McGregor was uninjured and immediately proceeded to send in his report from the nearest telephone. This officer has displayed high courage and great devotion to duty in the face of the enemy.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Geoffrey William GARTON (67034), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 112 Squadron.

In June, 1942, when it became necessary to retire from a landing ground, Flight Lieutenant Garton displayed considerable skill and initiative in salvaging a bomber which had been stripped of much of its equipment. Without having flown this type of aircraft previously he successfully flew the bomber, with two passengers, to another aerodrome where he made a safe landing. Flight Lieutenant Garton has participated in many operational sorties in which he has destroyed at least 4 hostile aircraft.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Thomas Patterson KYD SCADE (76161), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 73 Squadron.

This fighter pilot has displayed high courage and skill which have been a splendid example to all personnel of his squadron. He has figured prominently in a number of hazardous operations in which he has shown a keen desire to engage the enemy. Flight Lieutenant Scade has destroyed several enemy aircraft, of which 2 were destroyed on the ground during a particularly successful raid on Jedabya aerodrome.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Walter William SWINNERTON (61252), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 250 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Swinnerton has completed a large number of operational flying hours over the Western Desert and has carried out many operational sorties. In November, 1941, he was shot down near Benina aerodrome. Hiding himself, he watched the enemy lay a minefield before they withdrew. He then made a map which enabled our forces, on their arrival, to render the aerodrome serviceable at once. In May, 1942, when proceeding on a flight to machine gun the enemy, he observed 6 of his comrades walking. Flight Lieutenant Swinnerton landed near them and finding that they were the crew of an aircraft which had been shot down he gave them his emergency rations after which he took off and directed one of our patrols to their rescue.

Lieutenant Walter John Stanley Alexander WEBB (103400), South African Air Force, No. 40 (S.A.A.F.) Squadron.

In May, 1942, whilst on a reconnaissance flight, this officer was engaged by 3 enemy aircraft one of which he destroyed. He then continued his reconnaissance and gained valuable information. Shortly afterwards Lieutenant Webb's aircraft was shot down in flames but, displaying great courage and initiative, he avoided capture and returned to his squadron. He has at all times displayed great skill and devotion to duty which have contributed largely to the high standard of morale maintained by his squadron.

Acting Flying Officer Leslie Patrick Sandford BING (Can/J 15465), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 89 Squadron.

Flying Officer Bing has displayed courage and outstanding skill. He has taken part in the destruction of 10 enemy aircraft at night. Flying Officer Bing has set a magnificent example to other observers.

Pilot Officer Allan John HANCOCK (120710), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 213 Squadron.

This officer has shot down five enemy aircraft and damaged a further two during recent operations in the Western Desert. In a combat in June, 1942, Pilot Officer Hancock sustained a bullet wound in the arm. Despite the intense pain and the loss of much blood he flew his aircraft to the nearest landing ground and, although in a semi-conscious condition, made a perfect landing.

Pilot Officer Gray STENBORG (N.Z. 402494), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 185 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Stenborg has displayed great determination and keenness to engage the enemy. One day in July, 1942, he encountered a superior force of enemy fighters which were acting as escort to bombers. Pilot Officer Stenborg attacked the enemy fighters, destroying two of them, and dispersed the remainder, thus enabling other Royal Air Force fighters to attack the bombers. A few days later he completed a similar operation and again shot down two enemy fighters. Pilot Officer Stenborg has now destroyed eight enemy aircraft.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Aus. 402523 Flight Sergeant Donald Hindle MCBURNIE, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 450 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Flight Sergeant McBurnie has displayed outstanding courage and keenness in his combats with the enemy. He has participated in many operational sorties, and has destroyed several enemy aircraft. He particularly distinguished himself on one occasion when participating as cover to a formation of aircraft detailed to make a bombing attack. When nearing the target, the formation was attacked by two enemy fighters. In the ensuing combat Flight Sergeant McBurnie displayed skill and determination and only broke off the engagement when his aircraft had been riddled with bullets and he was wounded in the leg and shoulder. This airman has set a fine example.

Can./R. 67906 Flight Sergeant Donald George REID, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 185 Squadron.

This airman has displayed skill, courage and determination in the face of the enemy. On two occasions recently he has been detailed to attack enemy fighters escorting bombers, and although greatly outnumbered, he destroyed one fighter on each occasion. In June, 1942, he encountered a force of Italian bombers which were heavily escorted by fighter aircraft. Diving through the fighters he attacked one of the bombers and set it on fire and then destroyed one of the fighters which had attacked him. Flight Sergeant Reid has destroyed at least five enemy aircraft in a period of seven weeks.

N.Z. 405336 Flight Sergeant David Ronald STEWART, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 70 Squadron.

One night in June, 1942, Flight Sergeant Stewart was the captain of an aircraft detailed to attack enemy armoured vehicles and motor transport. After delivering several bombing attacks he dived to a very low altitude and carried out two machine-gun attacks. Flight Sergeant Stewart's aircraft was then hit by machine gun and cannon fire from an enemy fighter. Displaying skilful airmanship he evaded the attacker and, despite the severe damage sustained, flew the aircraft back to base where he made a successful landing with the undercarriage retracted.

1267053 Sergeant George Frederick BEURLING, No. 249 Squadron.

Sergeant Beurling has displayed great skill and courage in the face of the enemy. One day in July, 1942, he engaged a number of enemy fighters which were escorting a formation of Junkers 88's and destroyed one fighter. Later during the same day he engaged 10 enemy fighters and shot two of them down into the sea, bringing his total victories to eight.

*Air Ministry,
28th July, 1942.*

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards:—

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commander Grahame Lawrence CRUICKSHANKS (34191) (deceased), No. 9 Squadron, awarded with effect from 18th August, 1941.

Squadron Leader Jeaffreson Herbert GRESWELL (37318), No. 172 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Kenneth Arthur ALDRIDGE (41976), No. 53 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Charles John MACKENZIE (91223), Auxiliary Air Force, No. 500 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Edgar Shepherd Stow NASH (42354), No. 612 Squadron.