

of one of our aircraft, which had been shot down. Although he was fired upon by the destroyer and engaged by Italian aircraft he remained over the area until he observed that the drifting crew were picked up by the destroyer.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Eric Norman Woods, D.F.C. (60119), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 249 Squadron.

In the recent heavy air fighting over Malta this officer has led his squadron against enemy formations with great success. Between 12th and 17th October, 1942, 27 aircraft were destroyed by the squadron, and much of this success can be attributed to Squadron Leader Woods's outstanding leadership. In one engagement, on the 13th October, he shot down two enemy aircraft, bringing his victories to six. His example of courage and devotion to duty has inspired his fellow pilots.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Henry Wallace McLeod, D.F.C. (Can./J.4912), Royal Canadian Air Force.

One day in October, 1942, this officer took part in an attack on a formation of six Junkers 88's and shot two of them down. Although his aircraft was damaged in the combat he led his section in an attack on another formation of nine enemy bombers. Afterwards, he skilfully flew his damaged aircraft to base. During a period of five days Flight Lieutenant McLeod destroyed five enemy aircraft in the defence of Malta. A gallant fighter, this officer has destroyed 12 and damaged many more enemy aircraft.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Flight Lieutenant Thomas Henry Desmond DRINKWATER (47841), No. 234 Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of operational sorties. He is an outstanding leader, who has displayed great skill and devotion to duty.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Edwin Herbert GLAZEBROOK (Can./J.5329), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 229 Squadron.

This officer has participated in many sorties over Sicily. In the heavy air fighting over Malta, he has taken part in many interceptions and his flight has destroyed 12 enemy aircraft. By his skilful and courageous leadership, Flight Lieutenant Glazebrook played a large part in the successes obtained. He has destroyed 3 enemy aircraft.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Erik Lawson HETHERINGTON (102091), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 249 Squadron.

During the recent intense air activity over Malta, this officer has led his flight with great skill. Many attacks on the island have been frustrated and 16 enemy aircraft destroyed. Throughout, Flight Lieutenant Hetherington's brilliant leadership has contributed materially to the success achieved. One day in October, 1942, he led his flight in a head-on attack against a force of 7 Junkers 88's escorted by a large number of fighters. A Junkers 88—shot down by Flight Lieutenant Hetherington—and 2 Messerschmitt 109's were destroyed. None of the bombers reached its target. This officer who has destroyed 2 enemy aircraft, has displayed fine leadership, courage and determination.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Colin Roy HEWLETT (69438), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 65 Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties. He is a skilful flight commander whose leadership has proved most inspiring. In the combined operations at Dieppe on the 19th August, 1942, Flight Lieutenant Hewlett flew with distinction.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Colin Henry PARKINSON (Aus.402877), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 229 Squadron.

This officer is a determined fighter who has led his formation with exceptional skill. On 17th October, 1942, he shot down a Messerschmitt 109. Shortly afterwards he saw, in the sea, one of his fellow pilots who had baled out. Whilst guiding a rescue launch to the spot, his aircraft was attacked by 3 enemy fighters but he drove them off. Although running short of petrol he did not return to base until he observed that the pilot had been picked up. This officer, whose courageous leadership has been most inspiring, has destroyed 9 enemy aircraft.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Arthur Ford ROSCOE (100530), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 229 Squadron.

On 12th October, 1942, this officer participated in an engagement against a force of enemy fighters. During the combat, one of his comrades was being attacked by a Messerschmitt 109 but a burst from Flight Lieutenant Roscoe's guns caused it to break away with pieces falling from it. His own aircraft was then attacked by 6 Messerschmitt 109's. Although he was wounded in the shoulder and his aircraft was damaged he fought his way through and, in so doing, destroyed 1 of the attacking aircraft. Whilst heading for base he was again attacked. His engine caught fire and it was only by skilful airmanship that he was able to land his aircraft. This courageous officer who has completed a large number of sorties and destroyed 4 enemy aircraft has always displayed great skill and determination.

Flying Officer John Frederick McElroy (Can./J.7230), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 249 Squadron.

During recent air fighting over Malta, this officer has displayed great courage and outstanding determination to destroy the enemy. On 12th October, 1942, during an interception, he destroyed a Messerschmitt 109 and then pursued a Junkers 88. Six enemy fighters were in close proximity and Flying Officer McElroy turned towards them and destroyed 1 before they broke off the fight. Three days later, his section attacked a formation of Junkers 88's and Flying Officer McElroy probably destroyed 1 of them. On another occasion, when one of his comrades was shot down into the sea, Flying Officer McElroy guided a rescue launch to the spot in spite of the presence of enemy fighters. This officer, who has completed many reconnaissances and destroyed 5 enemy aircraft, has displayed inspiring leadership.

Flying Officer Frank Henry MITCHELL (102087), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

This officer is a highly skilled observer. He has participated in many sorties at night and his fine work has assisted in the destruction of 2 enemy aircraft.

Flying Officer John Percival RICKARDS (Aus.400422), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 53 Squadron.

This officer has completed numerous sorties, involving reconnaissances, shipping and anti-submarine patrols. Throughout, his efficiency and devotion to duty have been outstanding. On one occasion in May, 1942, Flying Officer Rickards was wounded during a sortie. Despite this he flew his aircraft safely back to base in difficult circumstances.

Pilot Officer Ronald Geoffrey LARGE (113371), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 616 Squadron.

In October, 1942, Pilot Officer Large was one of 2 pilots whose aircraft were intercepted near the coast in Northern France by enemy fighters. In the ensuing engagement, Pilot Officer Large destroyed a Focke Wulf 190. His fellow pilot, however, was forced to leave his aircraft by parachute but he descended safely on to the sea a few miles from the enemy's coast. Pilot Officer Large, having expended all his ammunition and running short of petrol, flew on to an aerodrome in this country where he landed and re-fuelled. Without waiting for his aircraft to be re-armed, he took off determined to locate his comrade. In this, he was successful and he continued to fly over the spot until his colleague was picked up by a rescue launch. On the return flight, Pilot Officer Large skilfully eluded enemy fighters which attempted to attack him. This officer's gallantry and forethought set a praiseworthy example.

Pilot Officer George William PENROSE (80423), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 12 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Donald Joseph WHEELER (Aus.404663), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 12 Squadron.

As rear gunner and wireless operator/air gunner respectively Pilot Officers Penrose and Wheeler have participated in numerous bombing sorties. In August, 1942, during a sortie against Kassel, both displayed high devotion to duty in difficult circumstances. The following night, they were members of the crew of an aircraft which attacked Saarbrücken. On the return flight, the aircraft was intercepted by an enemy fighter. In a series of 15 attacks, the bomber sustained severe damage. A shell which burst in the rear turret exploded