

# BATTLE AWARDS TO NEW ZEALANDERS

## Distinguished Services

### OPERATIONS IN THE WESTERN DESERT

(N.Z.E.F. Official News Service.)

CAIRO, July 7.

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve the undermentioned honours and awards, recommended by the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, in a dispatch on the operations in the Western Desert, Libya, and Cyrenaica, from December, 1940, to February, 1941:—

Officer of the Order of the British Empire: **Major George Harold Whyte**. Mrs. G. E. Whyte (wife), care H. J. Maisey, 12 Emerson Street, Berhampore, Wellington.

Member of the Order of the British Empire: **Lieutenant (temporary Captain) George Douglas Pollock**. Mrs. M. F. Pollock (wife), 40 Kohi marama Road, Auckland.

Medal of the Order of the British Empire for Meritorious Service: **Corporal Albert Alexander Gilmore**. Mrs. M. E. Gilmore (mother), Glenbrook, Waiuku.

Military Cross: **Captain James Alexander McAlpine** (since deceased). Mrs. W. K. McAlpine (mother), Spye, R.M., Waipara.

Distinguished Conduct Medal: **Corporal Lawrence Hamilton Browne**. Mrs. E. V. M. Browne (wife), care Mrs. Fitzgeorge, Karaka Street, Eastbourne.

Military Medal: **Driver Ronald Irving Alexander Burns**. Mrs. M. E. Burns (mother), 14 Avalon Street, Christchurch. **Trooper Ian Hamilton McInnes**. Mrs. C. McInnes (mother), 19 Roslyn Terrace, Devonport. **Corporal Edmund Kennard Madigan**. Mrs. E. E. Madigan (wife), 199 Waimea Road, Nelson.

The following are mentioned for distinguished services:—

Lieutenant (temp. Captain) **L. B. Ballantyne**. Mrs. J. B. Ballantyne (wife), c/o. P.O. Box 206, Makotuku.

Lieutenant **R. B. McQueen**. Mrs. A. L. McQueen (mother), Otaika Road, Whangarei.

W.O.II C.S.M. **D. Barrett**. Mrs. E. L. Barrett (wife), 37 Myrtle Street, Claudelands, Hamilton.

Sergeant **J. R. Shepherd**. Mr. J. F. Shepherd (father), 32 Queens Avenue, Hamilton.

Corporal **F. R. Beech** (since deceased). Mr. F. J. Beech (father), Picton.

Corporal **G. L. Davison**. Mrs. E. M. Davison (wife), 16 Princess Street, Whangarei.

Lance-Corporal **F. Kendall**. Mrs. S. H. Kendall (mother), Kati Kati.

Trooper **R. J. Moore**, D.C.M. Mrs. A. Moore (mother), Hautapu Street, Taihape.

Trooper **L. F. Mather**. Mr. W. J. Mather (father), c/o. N.Z. Blind Institute, Auckland.

Trooper **T. B. McNeil**. Mrs. E. McNeil (mother), Allendale Terrace, Wellington.

Major **F. W. Aickin**. Mrs. S. A. Aickin (wife), 28 Anne Street, Wellington, N2.

Major **L. F. Rudd**. Mrs. D. E. Rudd (wife), 27 St. Leonards Road, Mt Eden, Auckland.

Sergeant **C. J. Flannery**. Mr. J. M. Flannery (brother), High Street, Waiara, Taranaki.

Sergeant **R. W. Hicks**. Mr. W. C. Hicks (father), 75 Calgary Street, off Dominion Road, Mt. Eden, Auckland.

Sergeant **L. C. Morris**. Mrs. A. C. Morris (mother), Manuka Street, Castlecliff, Wanganui.

Sergeant **A. B. Robinson** (since deceased). Mrs. N. L. Robinson (wife), 190 Leith Street, Dunedin.

Lance-Sergeant **G. Hope**. Mr. J. Hope (father), Matawai, Gisborne.

Sapper **L. H. Humberstone**. Mrs. A. Humberstone (mother), Rotowaro, Huntly.

Sergeant **V. S. Tankard**. Mr. G. S. Tankard (father), c/o. Mrs. A. Vautier, 9 Durnly Salisbury Street, Christchurch.

Corporal **J. J. Knowles**. Mrs. G. H. Knowles (mother), Uxbridge Road, Howick.

Signalman **A. R. A. Butterworth**. Mrs. M. R. Butterworth (mother), 11 Campbell Street, Wanganui.

Signalman **A. Q. Yanko**. Mrs. J. M. Yanko (wife), Victoria Valley, Kai taia.

Lieutenant (Acting Captain) **D. G. Steele**. Mrs. W. D. Steele (mother), Simla Crescent, Khandallah, Wellington.

Private **E. Harcourt**. Mrs. M. Harcourt (mother), 28 Kensington Avenue, Christchurch.

Private **D. J. McInnes**. Mr. J. D. McInnes (father), 57 Green's Road, Christchurch.

Private **R. A. Tinker**. Mr. A. Tinker (brother), Takanini, Auckland.

Captain **G. G. Good**. Mrs. L. Good (mother), c/o. Dr. Jones, 20 Normans Road, Christchurch.

Captain **W. G. S. McDonagh** (since deceased). Mr. T. R. McDonagh (brother), Moore Lane, Strensall, York, England.

Captain **I. E. Stock**. Mrs. A. H. Stock (wife), 303 Bealey Avenue, Christchurch.

Lieutenant **J. T. Wallace** (since deceased). Mrs. C. P. Wallace (mother), 3 Johnsonville Road, Wellington.

Sergeant **S. H. Matthews**. Mr. E. J. Matthews (father), 10 Beaconsfield Street, Devonport, Auckland.

Corporal **O. T. Pussell** (since deceased). Mr. O. Pussell (father), Post Office, Kimbolton.

Captain **A. L. Lomas**, M.C. Mr. J. J. Lomas (father), P.O. Box 210, New Plymouth.

#### Citations to Awards.

The citations to the awards are as follows:—

Major Whyte, as officer commanding the Fourth Reserve Motor Transport Company, rendered most valuable service during the campaign. His unit was always maintained at a high standard of efficiency and was continually employed in arduous duties and often dangerous roles. The good work of this unit was the subject of many messages of appreciation from formation commanders. The main credit for this high standard was due to Major Whyte, whose personal efficiency was an example and inspiration to the whole unit.

Lieutenant Pollock, from December, 1940, to February 15, 1941, has shown excellent powers of leadership and command, thereby encouraging his men in the performance of arduous duties under adverse circumstances.

Corporal Gilmore, N.Z.A.S.C., for continuous good work and devotion to duty while in the Western Desert. He

was in charge of three vehicles attached for a period to the 7th Armoured Division. His role was to carry wooden tank-trap bridging and to negotiate tank traps during the advance. The officer commanding during his attachment reported that the work was done in an extremely business-like manner, and that the driving was of a particularly high standard. This n.c.o. maintained the standard and did outstanding work throughout the campaign.

Captain McAlpine, 4th Reserve Motor Transport, was subsequently killed in action in Greece. During the operations at Tummur West, on December 9, 1940, he led a section of motor transport into the perimeter under artillery and machine-gun fire. He controlled and supervised debussing with great coolness and courage, and set a splendid example to the Indian troops he was carrying throughout the operations. This officer rendered consistently valuable service throughout the campaign, and was in every way worthy of the decoration.

Corporal Browne, Long Range Desert Group. This n.c.o. displayed exceptional gallantry and resource during the raid on Murzuk on January 11, 1941. He commanded his vehicle most efficiently, and maintained Lewis gun action with coolness and with telling effect on the enemy. His example did much to keep the patrol steady at a critical time, when enemy fire was causing casualties. Though wounded in the foot, he remained at his post. In the action at Gebel Sherif, south-west of Kufra, on January 31, his coolness was instrumental in saving his vehicle and crew when subjected to a determined low-flying bombing and machine-gun attack by enemy aircraft. Throughout all the operations in Libya this n.c.o. has held the responsible post of patrol navigator and has shown the utmost devotion to duty.

[Corporal Browne, a native of England, came to Wellington eight years ago, and was employed in the Land and Income Tax Department before enlisting. He has been twice wounded. His wife is engaged in war work in Wellington.]

Driver Burns, Supply Column, N.Z.A.S.C. For consistent good work and devotion to duty. This soldier has been subjected to severe enemy bombing at both headquarters camp and in forward areas. On no occasion has this impaired his devotion to duty efficiency and cheerfulness, or that trait which puts him above the ordinary driver—ability under any circumstances or adversity to excel in the work in hand.

Trooper McInnis, Divisional Cavalry. This soldier, senior man of a two-inch mortar crew, was in the action on Murzuk on January 11. He worked his mortar to within 400 yards of an Italian fort, and maintained it in action with telling effect, causing the fort to catch fire. Though under fire from three directions, he held the position and continued to bomb the target

## Lieut. General Sir Guy Williams

### Visit to Hamilton

Lieut. General Sir Guy Williams recently paid a visit to the Headquarters of Area 4, Hamilton, Northern Military District, and while there took the opportunity of addressing officers and N.C.O.s' of the following units who paraded at the Bledisloe Hall in honour of the General's visit:

Area Headquarters Staff; Waikato Mounted Rifles; 7th Medium Battery, N.Z.A.; 1st Bn. Waikato Regiment; 6th (Hamilton) Coy. National Military Reserve; and also senior officers of the local Home Guard Battalion.

On Monday, 7th July, Colonel R. A. Row visited Area 4 and delivered lectures at the Cambridge Camp, in the morning and afternoon, and the Hamilton Drill Hall in the evening, when the officers and N.C.O.s' of Territorial Units centred at Hamilton attended. The lectures proved of a very interesting nature, and were elucidated by maps.

#### OF COURSE.

At a camp the duty officer on his rounds entered a bunkhouse shortly after "lights-out." A rum-pus had been going on prior to his entry, but all was suddenly quiet.

"I suppose you are all asleep, men?" the officer bawled sarcastically.

Chorus from the men: "Yes, sir!"

ill he was ordered to withdraw. His withdrawal from this dangerous position without casualty to the crew or loss of any equipment, while under close machine-gun fire, was a fine example of a soldier's ability.

Corporal Madigan, N.Z.E. This N.C.O., over the period from September, 1940, to February, 1941, destroyed or made safe upward of 500 enemy "thermos" bombs and other bombs. His work was of a specially trying and dangerous character, and his unremitting care and zeal ensured that his party did its work in the Western Desert, Libya, without a single casualty.



#### REMOVING BOMB SCARS.

Field Marshal Lord Milne, Colonel Commandant of the British Pioneer Corps, chatting to two of his pioneers employed in clearing up bomb debris in London.