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ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy:—

Bar to the Distinguished Service Order.

Wing Commander James RANKIN, D.S.O., D.F.C. (37210), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

Since he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order in November, 1941, Wing Commander Rankin has completed 54 operational sorties. On all these occasions he led the wing which destroyed 27 hostile aircraft and damaged many more. Of these Wing Commander Rankin personally destroyed 3 and damaged at least 8 enemy aircraft. This officer has now brought his total victories to 21 enemy aircraft destroyed. He has at all times displayed great tactical skill, courage and leadership combined with a great determination to seek and engage the enemy.

Distinguished Service Order.

Wing Commander John Hugh CHAPLIN, D.F.C. (36053), No. 38 Squadron.

One night in June, 1942, Wing Commander Chaplin led a force of 7 aircraft to attack a large enemy vessel escorted by 3 destroyers. Despite the most intense fire from all the vessels he pressed home the attack from point blank range. The ship was hit and later reports confirmed that it had been sunk. Wing Commander Chaplin has led a considerable number of attacks against enemy shipping in the Mediterranean and has set a magnificent example by his courage, enthusiasm and fine leadership.

Squadron Leader John Seymour SHERWOOD, D.F.C. (39132), No. 97 Squadron.

On the 17th April, 1942, Squadron Leader Sherwood was the leader of one of two

formations of 6 Lancaster bombers detailed to deliver a low level attack in daylight on the diesel engine factory at Augsburg. He led the formation at very low level across 600 miles of enemy territory. On approaching the target heavy and accurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered. Nevertheless, showing fine daring and coolness, Squadron Leader Sherwood pressed home the attack at a very low level scoring hits on the factory with his bombs. His aircraft was then hit by anti-aircraft fire and set alight. He continued, however, to lead his section away from the target until his aircraft became uncontrollable. By his extreme devotion to duty Squadron Leader Sherwood contributed much towards the success of the operation and continued his daring leadership until his aircraft could no longer be flown. His conspicuous bravery on this occasion crowned a long and distinguished career in the service of his country.

Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Dennis Edward HEALY (60287), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 210 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Pilot Officer Ernest SCHOFIELD (101044), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 210 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

619782 Sergeant George Victor KINGETT, No. 210 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Healy, Pilot Officer Schofield and Sergeant Kingett, as captain, navigator and wireless operator/air gunner respectively, have consistently displayed great skill, courage and devotion to duty in the execution of their duties. They were selected as members of the crew of a Catalina flying boat which was recently detailed for certain special operations. Four flights have been completed involving a total distance of 9,500 miles much of which was flown in the

most severe weather and icing conditions. Nevertheless this crew, displaying superb skill and undaunted determination, accomplished their task successfully. They displayed magnificent fortitude throughout.

Distinguished Service Order.

Pilot Officer Albert Brenton HARVEY (106869), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 600 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer Bernard Blake WICKSTEED (60434), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 600 Squadron.

One evening in June, 1942, Pilot Officer Harvey and Flying Officer Wicksteed were the pilot and observer respectively of a Beau-fighter which attacked a Heinkel III flying at sea level. During the combat the starboard engine of the Beaufighter was set on fire and put out of action and the port engine also sustained damage. Despite this Pilot Officer Harvey continued his attack and set the port engine of the Heinkel on fire. The enemy aircraft was soon burning fiercely and was lost to the sight of Pilot Officer Harvey through the smoke and flames from his own engine. Knowing that he would be unable to regain his base Pilot Officer Harvey advised his observer to abandon the aircraft. Displaying great coolness and exemplary courage Flying Officer Wicksteed, however, continued his duties, preparing for the crash by strapping his pilot in and refusing to prepare for his own escape. When the crash occurred, Flying Officer Wicksteed was momentarily trapped in the aircraft but eventually succeeded in escaping in an exhausted condition and without a dinghy. Pilot Officer Harvey assisted Flying Officer Wicksteed into his own dinghy and swam towards the shore, about 7 miles distant, pushing the dinghy in the process. After an hour Pilot Officer Harvey became exhausted and got on to the dinghy himself. When some 200 yards from the shore he left the dinghy and swam to the shore, scaled a cliff and walked to the Sector Operations Room where he organised a search party to return and rescue his observer. The courage and devotion to duty displayed by Pilot Officer Harvey undoubtedly saved the observer's life. Both officers displayed considerable gallantry during this sortie.

Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Warrant Officer Herbert Victor PETERSON, D.F.C. (Can/R.60240), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 10 Squadron.

One night in June, 1942, Warrant Officer Peterson was the captain of a Halifax aircraft detailed to attack Essen. Whilst over the target the aircraft was held by strong searchlight cones and subjected to intense anti-aircraft fire. The port outer engine was hit and ceased to function. The windscreen was also damaged and a piece of perspex entered Warrant Officer Peterson's left eye. Nevertheless he continued to take evasive action and eventually set off on the return journey. Whilst over Holland, flying at 11,000 feet, he was attacked by an enemy fighter. His rear gunner delivered a short

burst which caused the enemy aircraft to burst into flames and dive away out of control. When crossing the Dutch coast the aircraft was again subjected to anti-aircraft fire and the starboard engine was put out of action. Despite Warrant Officer Peterson's injury and the severe damage sustained by the aircraft he succeeded in flying back to this country and landing on an aerodrome with which he was unfamiliar. Warrant Officer Peterson displayed fine courage and determination throughout.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Hugh Charles KENNARD (40396), No. 121 (Eagle) Squadron.

Squadron Leader Kennard has completed 58 offensive operations since he was appointed to command the squadron in January, 1942. In May, 1942, he led the squadron in a successful combat against 8 enemy aircraft, 2 of which were destroyed, 1 probably destroyed and another damaged. A few days later he led a flight in a successful attack against a minesweeper. Later in May, 1942, Squadron Leader Kennard led his squadron to attack an armed trawler off the Dutch coast. The trawler was observed to sink. Squadron Leader Kennard has commanded his squadron skilfully and has set an excellent example at all times.

Acting Squadron Leader John Robert PENNINGTON-LEGH (37826), No. 175 Squadron.

This officer has always shown great keenness to engage the enemy and has done so with consistently good results. The squadron, under Squadron Leader Pennington-Legh's excellent leadership, has sunk an enemy destroyer and a minesweeper and has probably sunk or seriously damaged a further 4 warships. In addition the squadron has attacked enemy aerodromes and inflicted considerable damage.

Flight Lieutenant Samuel Richard Creswick WOOD (Aus. 516), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 10 (R.A.A.F) Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Wood was the captain of a Sunderland aircraft which attacked a U-Boat in the Bay of Biscay. Shortly afterwards the Sunderland was attacked by an enemy aircraft. Severe damage was inflicted on the attacker and it is unlikely that the aircraft was able to return to its base. Despite the damage sustained by the Sunderland, Flight Lieutenant Wood succeeded in bringing his aircraft back safely. The cool courage and determination consistently displayed by this officer have set an excellent example.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Alan Jeffery ANDREWS (60748), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 91 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Andrews has completed 220 operational sorties in which he has displayed great skill in reconnaissances of shipping and in attacks on enemy vessels. He has shown a keen desire to engage the enemy in the air and has probably destroyed 2 Messerschmitt 109's and damaged other hostile aircraft.

Acting Flight Lieutenant William Winder MCCONNELL (81643), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 174 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant McConnell has completed a large number of operational sorties both by day and night and has shared in the destruction of two enemy bombers. He was appointed flight commander in March, 1942, and has since led his flight, and on occasions the squadron, in many successful bombing operations. These have included both high and low level attacks against aerodromes and factories and against enemy shipping at night. Despite intense opposition, Flight Lieutenant McConnell has displayed fine leadership and determination which have contributed largely to the successes achieved by his squadron. He has proved himself an excellent flight commander and has set a fine example.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Geoffrey Charles PANNELL (N.Z.391856), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 91 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Pannell has completed a large number of operational sorties, including patrols, sweeps, shipping reconnaissances and flights as escort to bombers. He has displayed an exceptional enthusiasm for operational flying and a keen desire to engage the enemy. In October, 1941, this officer was leading an air escort provided for an Air Sea Rescue operation. The formation was attacked but, showing fine leadership and tenacity, Flight Lieutenant Pannell succeeded in protecting the rescue craft and in destroying personally one of the attacking aircraft. In all, he has destroyed 2 enemy aircraft and damaged several more.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Bradley Reardon WALKER (Can./J.3205), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 403 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Walker completed 14 operational sorties before joining his present squadron. He has since participated in 38 fighter sweeps over France and has led the squadron on 3 occasions. In April, 1942, he led a flight in a successful attack made by the squadron against a formation of enemy aircraft. 1 hostile aircraft was destroyed, and several others were damaged. Flight Lieutenant Walker has proved himself to be a courageous and skilful leader and has set a fine example.

Flying Officer William Thomas Howard HOWELL (44757), No. 23 Squadron.

This air observer has participated in 38 sorties with the squadron. His skill as a navigator is of a high order and he has displayed great calmness as a bomb aimer. Flying Officer Howell has shown extreme keenness for operations which has been an example to others.

Pilot Officer Gordon William BREWER (N.Z. 412196), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 107 Squadron.

In June, 1942, Pilot Officer Brewer, who was engaged on his first operational flight, was the pilot of one of 6 Boston aircraft detailed to attack shipping and the docks at Dunkirk. On approaching the French coast the formation was subjected to extremely

heavy and accurate anti-aircraft fire. Pilot Officer Brewer's aircraft was hit in numerous places and the hydraulic system was rendered useless. Pilot Officer Brewer received a shrapnel wound in the thigh which rendered his leg useless. Despite the pain and the loss of much blood he bombed his objective successfully and maintained formation during the return flight to base. Knowing that he was without brakes he brought his aircraft in to land and avoided crashing by running it to a standstill through a dispersal area. Pilot Officer Brewer thereby saved his crew from injury. He displayed high courage and devotion to duty and set an excellent example.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Pilot Officer Eric Willan WHITNEY (123102), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 149 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

932830 Sergeant Brian Geoffrey CHEEK, No. 149 Squadron.

On the night of 5th June, 1942, Pilot Officer Whitney and Sergeant Cheek were the pilot and wireless operator respectively of a Stirling aircraft detailed to attack the Ruhr. Whilst over the target, the aircraft was held by searchlights and subjected to heavy anti-aircraft fire from which considerable damage was sustained. Despite this, Pilot Officer Whitney pressed home his attack and dropped his bombs in the target area. When leaving the target the aircraft was again hit by anti-aircraft fire and a fire was started in the front turret. This was, however, eventually extinguished. The aircraft was then involved in a collision with another aircraft and damaged at the rear. Sergeant Cheek inspected the damage and informed the pilot. During his passage along the aircraft he received a wound in the arm but, ignoring his injury, he returned to his cabin and sent out a message giving information as to the condition of the aircraft. While sending this message an attack was made by an enemy fighter and the wireless aerial was shot away. Other damage was also inflicted which caused height to be lost rapidly. Although injured and in great pain Sergeant Cheek repaired his wireless set and succeeded in informing base of the position. Pilot Officer Whitney, displaying skilful airmanship and great determination, eventually succeeded in alighting on the sea 8 miles from the Belgian coast. The crew escaped by dinghy and all were rescued. This was largely due to the courage and calm devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Cheek in sending his messages.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Warrant Officer Kenneth Stanley THOMPSON (566116), No. 23 Squadron.

This air observer has taken part in 55 operational sorties of which 36 have been undertaken with his present squadron. In April, 1942, he bombed and destroyed a Heinkel III on the runway at Evreux. Warrant Officer Thompson has displayed great keenness in his work and his navigation is of a high order.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Can/R.80521 Flight Sergeant Donald Robert MORRISON, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 401 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Flight Sergeant Morrison has displayed outstanding ability and skill as a pilot during combats with the enemy. He has destroyed 2 and damaged several other enemy aircraft, besides sharing in the destruction of 2 others. Flight Sergeant Morrison has participated in 57 operational sorties and in May, 1942, after his port elevator had been shot off by enemy cannon fire near Le Havre, he successfully brought his aircraft back to this country and performed a difficult landing with little additional damage.

1350274 Sergeant Bertram Charles GROVES, No. 10 Squadron.

One night in May, 1942, Sergeant Groves was the tail gunner of a Halifax aircraft engaged on operations. When over the target he was wounded by enemy fire. Nevertheless, he continued to fire his guns at searchlights and enemy gun positions while the aircraft lost height from 14,000 feet to only 200 feet. He was wounded again in the arm and in the eye and his turret was rendered unserviceable. He was thus forced to cease fire. His difficulties were still further increased as the turret doors became jammed and he was unable to get out. During the whole of the engagement, which lasted 25 minutes, Sergeant Groves gave no indication that he had been so badly wounded. He displayed fortitude, courage and tenacity of a high standard.

1251533 Sergeant Stanley Alfred JONES, No. 118 Squadron.

Sergeant Jones has been engaged on operational flying for more than a year and has completed over 100 sorties. These have included flights as escort to our bombers, fighter sweeps, and successful low level

cannon attacks against land targets and shipping. Sergeant Jones has displayed splendid leadership, keenness and determination and has set a fine example.

1376216 Sergeant William Robert YOUENS, No. 38 Squadron.

928287 Sergeant Graham Arthur Cecil CARINGTON, No. 38 Squadron.

One night in May, 1942, Sergeant Youens and Sergeant Carington were the pilot and observer respectively of an aircraft which made a daring attack on a convoy in the Mediterranean. A hit with a torpedo was scored on an 8,000 ton motor vessel. Intense heavy anti-aircraft fire was encountered from which the aircraft sustained damage but, by displaying skilful flying and navigation, these airmen brought the aircraft to an advance base safely after an operation lasting 8 hours.

Air Ministry,

30th June, 1942.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following award in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy:—

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant Robert Nixon DALKIN.

This officer has displayed gallantry and devotion to duty in operations against the enemy in the Darwin area. On several occasions he led his flight against intense anti-aircraft fire and fighter attack and dived and released his bombs at very low altitudes. Afterwards, in the face of similar opposition, he attacked with machine gun fire enemy flying boats and bases at Koepang. His personal courage and quality of leadership proved an inspiring example to his squadron.

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