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Air Ministry, 18th February, 1944.

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

Distinguished Service Order.

Flying Officer Sydney Simon SHULEMSON (Can./J. 12483), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 404 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed numerous sorties, including several successful attacks on shipping. He is a skillful, courageous and determined leader, whose example has inspired all. In January, 1944, he participated in an attack on a convoy consisting of enemy merchant vessels and 4 armed ships. In the face of considerable anti-aircraft fire, the attack was well pressed home and a medium sized merchant vessel and two merchantmen were hit and set on fire; hits were also obtained on 2 of the escort ships, one of them appearing to blow up. As course was set for home, one member of the formation was attacked by a fighter and sustained damage. Flying Officer Shulemson immediately turned and joined the fight. By skilful and daring tactics he drew away the attacker, thus enabling his comrade to fly clear. Some 18 minutes later, the enemy aircraft was forced to terminate the engagement and Flying Officer Shulemson flew on to base and landed safely in spite of a burst tyre on one of the landing wheels. Throughout the sortie, this officer displayed inspiring leadership, great skill and courage.

Distinguished Service Order.

Pilot Officer Frederick Wootton GALLAGHER (157083), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 207 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1101124 Flight Sergeant Charles Edward Dean STEWART, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 207 Squadron.

This officer and airman were pilot and flight engineer respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Brunswick one night in January, 1944. When crossing the enemy coast, one of the aircraft's engines became unserviceable. Despite this, Pilot Officer Gallagher continued his mission. When approaching the target a fighter was sighted. The enemy aircraft was closing in but Pilot Officer Gallagher held to a straight course in order to ensure accurate bombing. When the bombing run was completed, evading action was taken. The fighter continued to attack for a further 25 minutes by which time Pilot Officer Gallagher's aircraft had sustained extensive damage and 2 engines were out of action. Nevertheless, course was set for home. Some time later, the aircraft was subjected to considerable anti-aircraft fire. A shell burst near one of the wings and the port aileron was hit by shrapnel and became jammed. The cowling top cover of

the starboard inner engine was also hit and thereafter hung loose. The aircraft became difficult to control and height was gradually lost. Much movable equipment was jettisoned in an effort to maintain height and the North Sea was crossed. When approaching base, Pilot Officer Gallagher ordered his crew to crash positions. Flight Sergeant Stewart, who had rendered great assistance so far, elected to remain and assist his captain in landing the aircraft. The task was successfully accomplished but, as the aircraft touched down, one of the landing wheels came off. The crew, except Flight Sergeant Stewart, who was slightly hurt, escaped injury. In most difficult circumstances Pilot Officer Gallagher displayed skill, courage and determination of the highest order and Flight Sergeant Stewart's exemplary conduct and devotion to duty were highly commendable.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Kenneth Royce SANDS (Aus.406265), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 450 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

In the fighting in the Western Desert and in North Africa; this officer completed a large number of successful sorties. Since then, he has participated in very many attacks on a variety of targets in Sicily and Italy and has invariably displayed great skill and determination. In January, 1944, Squadron Leader Sands led the squadron in an attack on a large naval vessel. The attack was pressed home with great determination and several hits were obtained on the vessel. This officer is a most inspiring leader and his determined efforts have been reflected in the fine fighting qualities of the squadron which has obtained many successes. Squadron Leader Sands has destroyed 2 enemy aircraft.

Flight Lieutenant Roy Trevor HUDSON (Aus.402356), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 450 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties and has displayed skill and courage of a high order. In January, 1944, he led a formation of aircraft in an attack on a large armed merchant vessel in the area of Sibenik harbour. In the face of heavy barrage from the harbour defences and the ship's guns the attack was pressed home with vigour. Hits were obtained on the vessel which caught fire and blazed furiously. By his skilful leadership and determined efforts, this officer contributed materially to the success achieved. In earlier operations in the Western Desert, Flight Lieutenant Hudson took part in many sorties and destroyed one enemy aircraft.

Flight Lieutenant Roy Colin ROBERTSON (Aus. 400486), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 450 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

In January, 1944, this officer led the squadron in an attack on a medium sized merchant vessel

in Sibenik harbour. Several hits were obtained on the vessel which caught fire. The next day Flight Lieutenant Robertson participated in an attack on another medium sized ship which was bombed with good results. This officer has completed a very large number of sorties, involving attacks on a wide range of targets and has displayed great courage, skill and resolution.

Acting Flight Lieutenant George Edward Lowe (136046), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 10 Squadron.

As air gunner, this officer has participated in a large number of sorties, involving attacks on most of the enemy's heavily defended targets. Throughout, he has displayed exceptional keenness, great skill and courage and has proved himself to be a most valuable member of aircraft crew. On more than one occasion his cool work in the face of the enemy has contributed materially to the success of the sortie. His record is worthy of high praise.

Flying Officer Donald William Field (124822), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 7 Squadron.

This officer was the pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack Frankfurt one night in December, 1943. During the operation the aircraft sustained much damage in an encounter with a fighter. Some important instruments were rendered unserviceable, the intercommunication system was put out of action and the tailplane was damaged. Later, another fighter was encountered. Before the enemy aircraft could be evaded, the bomber sustained more damage, making it difficult to control. Nevertheless, Flying Officer Field held resolutely to his course and, in the face of much difficulty, succeeded in reaching this country. In most hazardous circumstances, this officer set a fine example of skill, courage and tenacity.

Flying Officer Dale Cairns Thomson (Can/J.13112), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 415 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

One night in January, 1944, this officer was the pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack 2 naval vessels off the French coast. In the face of intense anti-aircraft fire, Flying Officer Thomson pressed home his attacks releasing his bombs from a low level. Hits were obtained on one of the vessels which was set on fire. His effort, brilliant in its execution, was worthy of high praise. Flying Officer Thomson has completed several attacks on shipping, achieving successes. He is a most determined and courageous pilot.

Pilot Officer Phillip Henry Cope (162790), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 15 Squadron.

One night in January, 1944, this officer was the navigator of an aircraft detailed to attack Brunswick. During the operation, the aircraft was attacked on 3 occasions by a fighter. Much damage was sustained but, in trying circumstances which made his task most difficult, Pilot Officer Cope displayed great ability and navigated the aircraft back to this country. This officer, who has participated in very many sorties, is a keen, competent and determined member of aircraft crew.

Pilot Officer Leslie Falgate (169345), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 76 Squadron.

As captain and pilot, this officer has participated in very many sorties, involving attacks on such targets as Berlin, Kassel, Leipzig and Hamburg. He has invariably displayed skill and courage of a high order and his determination to complete his mission successfully has been most commendable. He is an ideal leader, whose sterling qualities have greatly inspired his crew.

Pilot Officer John Rushbrooke Petrie-Andrews, D.F.M. (155220), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 35 Squadron.

This officer is a capable and courageous pilot whose example of devotion to duty has been highly commendable. His determination was well illustrated during a sortie one night in November,

1943. Before reaching his target, one of the aircraft's engines failed. Nevertheless, he went on to reach and bomb the objective. Whilst over the area, a second engine failed. Thereupon, Pilot Officer Petrie-Andrews decided to set course for Sardinia. On his flight to the island a third engine became useless and Pilot Officer Petrie-Andrews was compelled to bring his aircraft down on to the sea. He and his crew got safely aboard the dinghy and paddled their way to the Sardinia coast which they reached 70 hours later. This officer has completed many sorties and his record is impressive.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Can/R.153882 Flight Sergeant John Angus, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 15 Squadron.

One night in January, 1944, this airman was the rear gunner of an aircraft detailed to attack Brunswick. Whilst on the bombing run, the aircraft was attacked by a fighter. Some damage was sustained but Flight Sergeant Angus drove off the attacker with accurate bursts of fire. Some 15 minutes later another fighter attacked. Flight Sergeant Angus engaged the attacker from close range, however, and his telling bursts of fire caused the enemy fighter to burst into flames and fall to the ground where it exploded. This gunner's skill and coolness contributed materially to the safe return of the aircraft. He has completed many sorties against well defended targets and his keenness and confidence have set a good example.

1482444 Sergeant Leslie Marsh, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 103 Squadron.

This airman was the mid-upper gunner of an aircraft detailed to attack Mannheim one night in September, 1943. When nearing the target area, the aircraft was hit by machine gun fire from a fighter. The rear gunner was killed and Sergeant Marsh was wounded in the legs. Although in great pain Sergeant Marsh remained at his post. Coolly withholding his fire until the attacker came into close range he then delivered an accurate burst which caused the enemy aircraft to break away; later it was seen to be on fire. On 2 occasions, more recently, his cool and determined work has played a good part in the success of the sortie. Sergeant Marsh is a model of efficiency and his example of courage and resolution has earned great praise.

Air Ministry, 18th February, 1944.

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

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant John Victor Marshall (83286), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 155 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Gordon Webster MacDonald (Can/I.15099), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 82 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Ira Allison Sutherland (N.Z.202900), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 82 Squadron.

The above awards are in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations.

Air Ministry, 18th February, 1944.

The KING has granted unrestricted permission for the wearing of the undermentioned decoration conferred upon the officer indicated in recognition of valuable services rendered in connection with the war:—

CONFERRED BY HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS.

Cross of Commander of the Order of Orange Nassau (with Swords).

Group Captain Sir Louis Greig, K.B.E., C.V.O., Royal Air Force.

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