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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:—

Distinguished Service Order.

Wing Commander Peter JEFFREY, D.F.C.,
Royal Australian Air Force.

This officer has led a fighter wing with great success since the present operations in the Western Desert began. His fine fighting spirit is well illustrated by the fact that, although in one engagement he was forced down in the enemy's lines, he succeeded in making his way safely back to base. Since that incident, he has continued to lead the wing valiantly and, in one fight, the unit destroyed 15 of the enemy's aircraft. After the engagement, Wing Commander Jeffrey landed his aircraft, rescued a pilot who had been forced down in the enemy's lines and flew back to base with him. Throughout, Wing Commander Jeffrey has displayed magnificent leadership, fearlessness and skill and has contributed in a large measure to the successes achieved.

Wing Commander Robert Gordon YAXLEY,
M.C., D.F.C. (33130), No. 272 Squadron.

Since the operations in the Western Desert commenced this officer has led his squadron with conspicuous success. Enemy aerodromes, as far west of the battle area as Benghazi, have been attacked daily and other serious damage has been inflicted on the enemy. On the opening day of the operations a number of Junkers 52 aircraft, carrying troops, were encountered and 7 of them were

shot down. In addition to a daily toll of enemy aircraft destroyed, heavy casualties have been inflicted on ground crews while lines of communication have been harassed and petrol tankers set on fire. Altogether, within a space of 6 days operations, no less than 46 of the enemy's aircraft were destroyed. Much of the brilliant successes achieved can be attributed to the courageous leadership and determination displayed by Wing Commander Yaxley. Throughout, he has set a magnificent example.

Squadron Leader Denys Edgar GILLAM,
D.F.C., A.F.C. (37167), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 615 Squadron.

This officer has led the squadron with conspicuous success against enemy shipping which, escorted by armed ships, were passing through the Straits of Dover. He has participated in every attack and has displayed fine leadership and enterprise. Throughout, Squadron Leader Gillam has displayed great daring and he has set a magnificent example which has undoubtedly contributed materially to the notable successes achieved.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Richard Playne STEVENS, D.F.C. (87639), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 151 Squadron.

This officer has shown himself to be a fearless and outstanding night fighter pilot. One night in October, 1941, flying at sea level, he intercepted a Junkers 88 off the East Anglian coast. The raider immediately turned and flew towards the continent at maximum speed but Flight Lieutenant Stevens gave chase and slowly overhauled it. The raider then opened fire with his guns and began to drop his bombs singly. Columns of water were shot up as a result of the explosions but Flight Lieutenant Stevens swerved round them and,

closing in to short range, shot down the enemy aircraft at almost sea level. He has destroyed at least 14 hostile aircraft at night.

Second Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Desmond Annesley McMULLEN, D.F.C. (40002), No. 266 Squadron.

This officer has participated in operational sorties over occupied France and Holland and has always evinced the keenest desire to engage the enemy. Since being awarded a Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross Flight Lieutenant McMullen has destroyed 5 hostile aircraft bringing his total victories to at least 18, 3 of which were gained at night.

Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Edward Brian MORTIMER-ROSE, D.F.C. (41944), No. 234 Squadron.

This officer is a relentless and inspiring fighter pilot. He has participated in every operational sortie undertaken by his squadron and, many times, has carried out individual attacks in enemy occupied country with great success. Flight Lieutenant Mortimer-Rose has destroyed at least 7 and damaged a further 9 enemy aircraft.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader George Ffolliott POWELL SHEDDEN (33277).

This officer has been engaged on operations almost since the war began. He served with a fighter squadron in the Middle East theatre of war until June, 1940, when he returned to this country and took part in the Battle of Britain. In July, 1941, Squadron Leader Powell Shedden was posted to Malta where he formed the night flying unit which has since performed sterling work in the night defence of Malta. By his great and energetic organising ability, together with his courage and initiative in the air, Squadron Leader Powell Shedden has contributed materially to the successes obtained. He has destroyed at least 5 enemy aircraft 3 of which were destroyed by him during the Battle of Britain.

Acting Squadron Leader Peter William LEFEVRE (40719), No. 126 Squadron.

This officer has shown the utmost devotion to duty over a long period of operational flying, in which he has destroyed several enemy aircraft. He carried out over 250 hours flying on convoy patrols over the North Sea as well as participating in other operational missions. Squadron Leader Lefevre has participated in operations in the Middle East, and in July, 1941, he attacked an Italian E boat which was forced to surrender.

Major Johannes Frederick BRITZ (102633), South African Air Force, No. 21 Squadron.

This officer, who displayed brilliant leadership in the East African campaign, continues to show outstanding qualities both as a pilot and flight commander and has led several attacks on targets in the Bardia area with distinction. On one occasion when in formation with another aircraft, during a bombing attack on Bardia both were attacked by 2 Messerschmitt 109s. The attackers shot down one of our aircraft but Major Britz fearlessly closed with the enemy and shot one of them down and, skilfully manœuvring his

aircraft, enabled his rear gunner to shoot down the other one. Throughout, this officer has displayed great courage and initiative and set an inspiring example.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Douglas Charles PASCALL (42428), No. 38 Squadron.

This officer has completed many operational sorties, involving several hundred hours flying. He is an outstanding pilot whose complete fearlessness and determination have set a fine example. One night in August, 1941, he participated in an attack on shipping in Tripoli harbour, releasing his bombs from a low height and scoring a hit on a ship which was already burning and causing another fire to break out. He also attacked other shipping outside the harbour. On another occasion when his engine failed 50 miles from his base, Flight Lieutenant Pascall succeeded in making a safe landing without damaging the aircraft.

Flying Officer Alfred David ALEXANDER (42382), No. 108 Squadron.

This officer has been almost continually engaged on operations for the past 15 months. He has carried out many operational missions, some of which were attacks on important targets in Germany and occupied territory. In the Middle East theatre of war he has carried out attacks against various targets, especially during the Iraq operations, with great skill and determination. Throughout Flying Officer Alexander has displayed high courage and devotion to duty and a great enthusiasm for operations.

Lieutenant Douglas Haig HILLHOUSE (47219), South African Air Force, No. 12 Squadron.

This officer has participated in active operations in East Africa and the Western Desert since June, 1940. He has taken part in 77 sorties, on 56 of which he has acted as air gunner and the remainder as bomb aimer. His ability to bomb his target accurately has been exceptional, and has contributed materially to the successes achieved by his unit. Lieutenant Hillhouse has shown great courage.

Pilot Officer Leonard Arthur VAUGHAN (78666), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 148 Squadron.

This officer air gunner has participated in 54 raids, including 28 against targets in Germany and German-occupied territory. Throughout, he has displayed the utmost keenness for operations which, together with his utter contempt for danger has set a splendid example to all. On one occasion during a mine-laying mission, his aircraft was subjected to fire, at close range, from 2 anti-aircraft guns. By silencing these guns, Pilot Officer Vaughan performed very valuable work in difficult circumstances. As a qualified gunnery leader, he carries out a great deal of the instruction of new crews, a work in which he has shown real ability.

Pilot Officer Michael Percy WAREHAM (85269), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 73 Squadron.

This officer has been engaged on operational flying in the Western Desert for the past 10 months. Throughout a difficult and arduous period, he showed remarkable keenness for operations, whatever the conditions or the odds. At one period he consistently

operated with his unit from an exposed aerodrome at Tobruk for several weeks. In a series of planned machine gun attacks on ground targets, Pilot Officer Wareham displayed exemplary coolness and initiative. He has destroyed at least 3 enemy aircraft off the Libyan coast.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

755573 Sergeant Albert George BEALE, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 151 Squadron.

This airman has been employed as an air gunner on operations since January, 1941, and has destroyed 3 and damaged several other enemy aircraft. His last success was one night in November, 1941, when he destroyed a Junkers 88. Sergeant Beale has at all times shown exceptional keenness and marked skill.

969947 Sergeant Arthur Thomas PRINCE, No. 38 Squadron.

This airman has completed many operational sorties, involving several hundred hours flying. He has displayed great efficiency and technical knowledge which has often contributed materially to the successes achieved. His steadiness and reliability have been most praiseworthy.

938162 Sergeant James Bennett SMITH, No. 70 Squadron.

This airman has been employed as an air observer since January, 1941, and has participated in sorties involving hundreds of hours flying. Throughout, he has proved himself to be a highly skilled navigator and a consistently accurate bomb aimer. One day in September, 1941, his bombs totally destroyed an oil storage ship in Benghazi harbour. Later, he participated in 2 attacks on a newly constructed jetty in the same harbour and succeeded in obtaining 5 direct hits on the target. In another attack in the same area, Sergeant Smith scored direct hits on a wreck which had been improvised to function as a jetty. He has also destroyed

enemy oil storage tanks by extremely accurate bombing. This airman has executed much valuable work throughout.

102444 Air Sergeant Kenneth George DU PRE, South African Air Force, No. 21 Squadron.

In November, 1941, this airman was an air gunner of an aircraft which was attacked by an enemy fighter near Tobruk. During the engagement, another air gunner was wounded in both legs and was falling out of the aircraft through the open lower hatch. Air Sergeant Du Pre promptly pulled him back, tended his wounds and applied first aid. As the enemy aircraft was still attacking, Air Sergeant Du Pre then returned to his guns and when they jammed, he gave clear instructions to his pilot as to the direction of the attack. He displayed great devotion to duty and initiative in the face of sustained enemy fire.

97812 Air Sergeant Thomas Gibson EARNSHAW, South African Air Force, No. 21 Squadron.

This airman has participated in numerous operational sorties both in East Africa and the Western Desert. In addition to his skill as an air gunner, his work as a wireless operator has been outstanding. On one occasion, whilst flying at 25,000 feet over Bardia, he succeeded in transmitting a message of the utmost importance despite the fact that he was suffering intense pain, from his frozen hands and that he was almost overcome owing to a breakdown of the oxygen supply apparatus. Two days later, he participated in a reconnaissance and, although his aircraft was subjected to intense anti-aircraft fire whilst over the target area, he succeeded in transmitting most valuable information. By his tireless self-sacrifice and initiative he has set a most praiseworthy example.

AMENDMENT.

In notification of 25th July, 1941 (p. 4275, col. 1) concerning Flying Officer David Leatham PRICHARD (36203), delete Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

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