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*Air Ministry,
3rd March, 1942.*

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 Flying Cross.

Wing Commander Edward Lawrence COLBECK-WELCH (34081), No. 29 Squadron.

This officer has commanded the squadron since June, 1941, and he has participated in 70 night sorties. In January, 1942, after a pursuit lasting nearly 20 minutes, he shot down a Dornier 217 into the sea some 70 miles from the coast. This is the second enemy aircraft he has shot down at night far out to sea. Wing Commander Colbeck-Welch has shown tenacity and a fine fighting spirit.

Acting Squadron Leader Robert Grant LYNN (41041), No. 224 Squadron.

This officer has carried out over 900 hours operational flying, involving patrols and reconnaissances over the Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea and off the Norwegian Coast. In all conditions of weather and in spite of encounters with the enemy he has always completed his tasks. On a recent occasion, on the completion of a patrol, his aircraft sustained damage from the fire of an armed ship which he was attacking. The starboard engine was damaged, the rudder trimmers shot away and the gyro-pilot put out of action. Despite this, Squadron Leader Lynn skilfully manoeuvred his aircraft into some low clouds and, by jettisoning movable equipment and some fuel, he was able to regain height of a few thousand feet. Shortly afterwards, the damaged engine failed completely but later it began to revolve again, causing the aircraft to vibrate violently and rendering it almost uncontrollable. Never-

theless, Squadron Leader Lynn succeeded in flying across the sea to reach this country. Unfortunately it became necessary to abandon the aircraft by parachute but, before leaving himself, Squadron Leader Lynn left the controls to ensure that all the crew got away from the aircraft safely. Throughout, this officer displayed great coolness and courage in the face of hazardous circumstances.

Acting Squadron Leader John Groves TOPHAM (41882), No. 219 Squadron.

This officer has participated in operational flying over a long period. He is a skilful and keen night fighter pilot and, although he has frequently carried out his sorties in extremely unfavourable flying conditions, he has destroyed 2 Junkers 88's. Squadron Leader Topham has at all times set a worthy example.

Flight Lieutenant Eric Frank Knowles CAMPLING (42049), No. 142 Squadron.

On 12th February, 1942, this officer participated in an attack on the enemy warships. Whilst making his attack at 700 feet, his aircraft was hit by the enemy's opposing fire and sustained damage to the port wing, the elevator trimming tabs and the fuselage. The aircraft became temporarily out of control and dived towards the sea and when 300 feet from the water, it was attacked by 2 enemy fighters. The rear gunner was unable to retaliate owing to the damaged hydraulics but, displaying the greatest skill, Flight Lieutenant Campling regained control of his aircraft and evaded the attackers. By flying low over the water, he evaded further interception and finally flew safely back to this country where he made a safe landing. Flight Lieutenant Campling has always shown a magnificent fighting spirit which, combined with his experience, skill and zeal, has set an inspiring example.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Cyril Patrick Joseph WOOD (69442), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 403 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has participated in 31 operational sorties over Northern France during which he has destroyed 3 and probably destroyed a further 2 enemy aircraft. He is a keen and skilful fighter pilot whose leadership and energy have set an inspiring example to his fellow pilots.

Pilot Officer Norman Worsley RICHARDSON (Aus. 404522), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 12 Squadron.

On 12th February, 1942, Pilot Officer Richardson was detailed to participate in an attack on the German battle cruisers passing through the Straits of Dover. In spite of extremely adverse weather conditions, Pilot Officer Richardson, displaying great perseverance finally located the objective off the Belgian coast. Whilst manoeuvring to attack the Gneisenau, in the face of a terrific barrage, Pilot Officer Richardson was wounded in the arm by a fragment of shell. In spite of this, he continued to press home his attack and, diving to 400 feet, he released his bombs which were observed to fall just in front of the bow of the cruiser. Although his aircraft was again hit by anti-aircraft fire, Pilot Officer Richardson flew his aircraft safely back to his base. Throughout, he set a splendid example of courage and determination.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Aus. 400114 Sergeant Jacques DUPONT, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 230 Squadron.

In December, 1941, this airman was a gunner of a Sunderland aircraft which was attacked by 2 Messerschmitt 110's. In the first of several attacks, 2 of the Sunderland's gunners were wounded but Sergeant Dupont continued to use his guns most effectively. His accurate fire finally caused the attackers to terminate the engagement and one of them was observed to break away with smoke pouring from both engines. Following the engagement, Sergeant Dupont's aircraft was forced to descend on to the sea. He assisted in launching the dinghies and then sat in one of them; it was made fast to the Sunderland and, in most arduous conditions, Sergeant Dupont prepared it for the reception of one of his mortally wounded comrades. Working under great difficulties he successfully transferred the wounded airman into the dinghy. The aircraft, which had remained afloat, finally drifted and struck a reef. Sergeant Dupont cast off the dinghy immediately before this happened and, swimming alongside it, he guided it clear of the aircraft and clung to it through the breaking seas. When the dinghy capsized on the surf on the reef, Sergeant Dupont held on to his wounded comrade, who was completely helpless, and eventually carried him to the shore. In the most trying circumstances, this airman displayed gallantry and fortitude worthy of the highest praise.

750890 Sergeant Robert James WATSON, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

In February, 1942, this airman was one of the rear gunners of an aircraft which was

attacked by enemy fighters during a reconnaissance patrol. A cannon shell badly damaged the aircraft, killed another rear gunner, wounded Sergeant Watson in several places and set a fuel tank on fire. The rear cockpit became filled with smoke and flames but, disregarding his wounds, Sergeant Watson removed his comrade and manning his gun in time to meet the second attack, he shot down one of the enemy aircraft into the sea. He then endeavoured to quell the flames in the rear cockpit by throwing out burning material. His dead comrade's clothing was on fire and, in extinguishing the flames, Sergeant Watson sustained severe burns. He was barely conscious when his pilot finally landed at an aerodrome. This airman displayed great skill and courage in circumstances of extreme danger and was largely responsible for the safe return of his aircraft.

637036 Leading Aircraftman Norman Charles SHIRLEY, No. 69 Squadron.

One day in February, 1942, this airman was an occupant of an aircraft which, in the course of an operational sortie, was attacked by enemy fighters. Although he was wounded in 7 places, Leading Aircraftman Shirley bravely fought back using his guns with good effect. During the engagement, Verey cartridges exploded in his aircraft and set fire to the back seat, but, when the attack was concluded, Leading Aircraftman Shirley succeeded in extinguishing the flames. By his courage and presence of mind in trying circumstances, this airman, although suffering considerably from his wounds, undoubtedly saved his aircraft from destruction.

Air Ministry,

3rd March, 1942.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

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

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Wing Commander Henry Neville Gynes RAMSBOTTOM-ISHERWOOD, A.F.C. (29116).

Squadron Leader Anthony Garforth MILLER (90088), Auxiliary Air Force, No. 134 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Anthony Hartwell ROOK (90071), Auxiliary Air Force, No. 81 Squadron.

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

Air Ministry,

3rd March, 1942.

AWARDS OF A FOREIGN DECORATION.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

His Majesty has granted unrestricted permission for the wearing of the undermentioned

decoration conferred on the officers indicated in recognition of valuable services rendered in connection with the war:—

CONFERRED BY THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT.

Croix de Guerre Belge.

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

Acting Squadron Leader George Kemp GILROY
(90481), Auxiliary Air Force.

AMENDMENTS.

In notification of 1st January, 1942 (p. 46, col. 1), for Flight Lieutenant J. L. WHITFORD (45104), read Flight Lieutenant J. N. K. WHITFORD (77427), R.A.F.V.R.

In notification of 20th February, 1942 (p. 844, col. 1), for Pilot Officer Duncan Ogilvie MILLER (115390), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, read Pilot Officer Duncan Ogilvie MILLER (115594), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

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