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*Air Ministry,
22nd May, 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 Service Order.

Acting Wing Commander Ian Richard GLEED, D.F.C. (37800).

This officer has led his wing on 26 sorties over enemy territory. He has always displayed a fine fighting spirit which, combined with his masterly leadership and keenness, has set an inspiring example. Wing Commander Gleed has destroyed at least 12 enemy aircraft, 2 of which he shot down at night.

Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Wing Commander Tristram Barnard de la Poer BERESFORD, D.F.C. (33156).

In April, 1942, this officer led his wing with much success. In the course of many sorties, 7 enemy aircraft were definitely destroyed; a further 6 were probably destroyed and others were damaged. Wing Commander Beresford himself probably destroyed 1 and damaged 2 of them. This officer has displayed great skill and masterly leadership which, combined with his gallantry, have set a splendid example.

Squadron Leader Derek Harland WARD, D.F.C. (40786), No. 73 Squadron.

This officer is a skilful and keen fighter pilot. One night in May, 1942, he led a formation of aircraft in an attack on Barce. The aerodrome and a dispersal area were successfully attacked and, during the operation, Squadron Leader Ward shot down a large aircraft which was approaching the aerodrome and engaged another before his

ammunition was expended. This officer has served in France and Britain. He has destroyed 6 hostile aircraft.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader Arthur Waite OLDROYD, A.F.C. (37889), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 218 (Gold Coast) Squadron.

Acting Flying Officer Reginald Wiseman BROWN (104694), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 218 (Gold Coast) Squadron.

Squadron Leader Oldroyd and Flying Officer Brown were the captain and navigator respectively of an aircraft, detailed to attack the Skoda Works at Pilsen. Dense cloud was experienced in the last 200 miles to the target but, owing to the navigational skill of Flying Officer Brown, the objective was reached and located 5 minutes before the estimated time. Very heavy anti-aircraft fire was encountered and the aircraft was repeatedly hit. Despite this, Squadron Leader Oldroyd remained over the target for a considerable time. On the return journey the aircraft was held by searchlights and subjected to further anti-aircraft fire, which was evaded successfully. Later, the aircraft was engaged by a Junkers 88, fire from which caused damage to the oil system, the port landing wheel and the petrol tanks. Throughout this combat Squadron Leader Oldroyd displayed skill and courage of a high standard which contributed largely to the safe return of his aircraft and crew. Flying Officer Brown has continually displayed great skill and courage, and has always identified his targets under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions.

Acting Squadron Leader Osgood Villiers HANBURY (81357), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 260 Squadron.

In April, 1942, this officer led a successful sortie against an enemy force of bombers, escorted by fighters, which attempted to raid

Tobruk. At least 4 of the raiding aircraft were destroyed, of which Squadron Leader Hanbury destroyed 1. This officer continued to engage the enemy until his aircraft was so extensively damaged that he was compelled to land. Throughout, he displayed magnificent leadership and courage. Squadron Leader Hanbury has destroyed at least 5 enemy aircraft.

Acting Squadron Leader Rhys Henry THOMAS (83282), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 129 Squadron.

This officer is a squadron commander of outstanding merit. He has participated in a large number of sorties against the enemy with success. During the period he has acted as flight or squadron commander, his unit has destroyed at least 17 hostile aircraft. Squadron Leader Thomas has at all times displayed great skill, sound judgment and reliability.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Arthur Brian WHEELER (Can/J.4813), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 226 Squadron.

In April, 1942, Flight Lieutenant Wheeler was the leader of the second section of a formation of Boston aircraft detailed to attack the docks at Le Havre. Despite very intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire, by which his aircraft was repeatedly hit, Flight Lieutenant Wheeler pressed home his attack. Immediately after releasing his bombs, the port engine failed, through damage by anti-aircraft fire, and he was forced to leave the formation and follow behind. Steadily losing height, Flight Lieutenant Wheeler skilfully flew his damaged aircraft back to base. His skill and perseverance contributed largely to the safe return of a valuable aircraft and crew. In September, 1941, at low level and in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire, he attacked and sank a flak ship of between 800 and 1,000 tons, which was escorting a convoy. Flight Lieutenant Wheeler has displayed courage, keenness and devotion to duty which have contributed largely to the successes achieved. He has set a fine example.

Flying Officer Ernest Hopwood BADCOCK (84717), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 226 Squadron.

In April, 1942, this officer was the navigator and bomb aimer in the leading aircraft of a formation of 6 which attacked the power station at Le Havre. Before the target was reached, intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered. Shell splinters damaged the air speed indicator and other instruments in the pilot's cockpit and also smashed through the observer's window, injuring Flying Officer Badcock. This did not prevent him from continuing to direct his pilot to the target and delivering his attack. Flying Officer Badcock has participated in many other successful sorties in which he has shown outstanding ability as a navigator. His calmness and quiet efficiency in the face of danger have set an excellent example.

Pilot Officer Robert Wendell MCNAIR (Can/J.4745), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 249 Squadron.

This officer is a skilful and courageous pilot. He invariably presses home his attacks

with the greatest determination irrespective of the odds. He has destroyed at least 5 and damaged 7 enemy aircraft; 4 of these he damaged in 1 combat.

Pilot Officer Angus Frederick TAYLOR (116524), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 9 Squadron.

One night in April, 1942, this officer captained an aircraft which attacked Rostock successfully. On the return journey his aircraft was attacked by an enemy fighter, fire from which killed the rear gunner and inflicted much damage to the aircraft, causing the rear turret to catch fire. At this time the second pilot was at the controls but Pilot Officer Taylor, although wounded in the back, immediately occupied his seat and regained control of the aircraft which was diving towards the sea. Skilfully evading a further attack from the enemy, who then broke off the engagement, Pilot Officer Taylor set course for base although a fire was blazing fiercely at the stern of the fuselage. Despite the efforts of other members of the crew, the flames could not be entirely subdued, but Pilot Officer Taylor continued his course and, displaying great skill, he finally flew his almost uncontrollable aircraft back to this country where he landed safely with the undercarriage retracted. In the face of extremely difficult and harassing circumstances, this officer, despite physical pain due to his wounds, displayed great skill and gallantry. He has completed numerous sorties and he has always shown great thoroughness and determination to complete his tasks.

Pilot Officer Frederick Wingate WALKER (48154), No. 608 Squadron.

This officer has completed numerous sorties, including attacks on the enemy's shipping, ports and aerodromes. Undeterred by the heaviest opposition, he has invariably pressed home his attacks with vigour. During recent attacks, he has scored hits on destroyers, an armed ship and on supply vessels. In May, 1942, during a patrol off the Norwegian coast, he observed a destroyer and 4 mine-sweepers. Skilfully approaching the destroyer, he made a low level attack on it releasing his bombs from a height of only 100 feet. It is believed that 3 hits were obtained. This officer has at all times shown outstanding courage and keenness.

Pilot Officer John Robert Nassau MOLESWORTH (Aus. 400520), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 114 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Edmund Francis Keith DENNY (106048), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 114 Squadron.

One night in April, 1942, Pilot Officers Molesworth and Denny were the pilot and observer respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Eindhoven aerodrome. On the outward journey, the air gunner reported that his guns would not fire. Despite the danger of interception by enemy fighters, Pilot Officer Molesworth flew on to his allotted target, which he bombed from 2,000 feet. On the return journey, his aircraft was attacked by an enemy fighter and sustained much damage. The instrument panel was shot away, the wireless rendered unserviceable and the hydraulics put out of action, while a large hole was torn in the floor of

the cockpit and the aircraft was riddled with holes. Nevertheless, Pilot Officer Molesworth, ably assisted by Pilot Officer Denny, who gave a running commentary on the attacker's movements, finally shook off the attacker and headed for this country. Immediately following the action, Pilot Officer Denny, despite the holes in the floor of the aircraft, climbed through the bomb well to make contact with the air gunner. Pilot Officer Molesworth flew the damaged aircraft back to this country but, shortly after crossing the coast at 700 feet, the starboard engine failed. Displaying great skill, however, he force-landed in the darkness with the undercarriage retracted. On impact, the aircraft caught fire but, with complete disregard for danger, Pilot Officer Denny entered the rear cockpit and rescued the trapped air gunner. Throughout the operation, these officers showed great courage and set an example worthy of high praise.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Can/R.58623 Flight Sergeant Edward Sudbury ALEXANDER, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 419 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

One night in April, 1942, Flight Sergeant Alexander was the observer of an aircraft detailed to attack Kiel. The attack was completely successful but, on the return flight, the aircraft was engaged by an enemy fighter. Damage was caused to the port propeller and the hydraulic system, and the rear turret was so severely damaged that the gunner was unable to open its doors. Flight Sergeant Alexander, although slightly wounded in the arm, forced the turret doors with an axe and helped the rear gunner out. Although nearly all the instruments were un-serviceable, Flight Sergeant Alexander's skilful navigation was mainly responsible for the safe return of the aircraft and crew. The courage and high sense of duty displayed by this airman has been an inspiration to other members of the crew.

Aus. 404692 Sergeant Virgil Paul BRENNAN, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 249 Squadron.

This airman is a most determined and courageous pilot. An exceptional shot, he always presses home his attacks with vigour. In 2 combats, he has destroyed at least 4 enemy aircraft and damaged others.

N.Z. 404362 Sergeant Raymond Brown, HESSELYN, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 249 Squadron.

Sergeant Hesselyn is a skilful and gallant pilot. Undeterred by odds, he presses home his attacks with outstanding determination. He has destroyed 5 enemy aircraft, 2 of which he shot down in one engagement.

1014448 Sergeant Herbert Lloyd WYNNE, No. 51 Squadron.

One night in April, 1942, this airman captained an aircraft detailed to attack Rostock. Whilst over the target area, the aircraft was hit and damaged by shell-fire and Sergeant Wynne was wounded in the face. Nevertheless, the objective was successfully bombed. The return flight was made in the face of considerable difficulty owing to the damage sustained and, when still some 200 miles from the English coast, the starboard engine failed. Movable equipment was jettisoned

and height was maintained. Eventually, Sergeant Wynne flew the damaged aircraft to this country where he made a skilful landing with the undercarriage retracted. Throughout, this airman displayed great courage and an outstanding determination to complete his allotted task.

*Air Ministry,
22nd May, 1942.*

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN 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.

Acting Wing Commander John Peter RYLAND, No. 13 Squadron.

This officer was appointed to command the advanced operational base at Namlea early in December, 1941, and, later during that month, assumed command of No. 13 Squadron at Ambon. He took an active part in reconnaissance duties against the enemy and obtained much valuable information. He led every raid made by his squadron against Manado where enemy shipping was successfully attacked and bombed. From Ambon he completed approximately 250 hours operational flying against the enemy. After leaving Ambon, immediately prior to the Japanese occupation, the squadron returned to Australia and from there has since continued its reconnaissance duties and attacks against the enemy. In the course of these attacks Wing Commander Ryland led an extremely successful night raid against Japanese-occupied Dilli. His devotion to duty whilst flying, his personal courage and determination displayed in the face of heavy odds proved the inspiration of all under his command.

Flight Lieutenant Richard Archibald DUNNE, No. 13 Squadron.

This officer was one of the original party which moved to Ambon early in December, 1941, and remained there until the time of the enemy occupation at the end of January, 1942. While stationed at Ambon he continuously led his flight in operations against the enemy and took part in numerous reconnaissance flights and raids upon enemy shipping at Manado and Kema, enemy assembly bases. In these operations he completed over 200 hours operational flying. When leading a flight in formation on the raid on the Japanese base at Tobi Island, his Squadron Leader crashed but Flight Lieutenant Dunne unhesitatingly took command and successfully completed the original mission. On many raids completed by him against the enemy, when losses were high, owing to strong fighter opposition and ground fire, he set the highest example of devotion to duty, leading his flight with courage, vigour, determination and complete disregard for his personal safety. Since the return of his squadron to Australia he has continued to take part in seaward reconnaissances and has led successful raids against the enemy at Koepang.

Flying Officer William Vyner Duckett WHITE,
No. 2 Squadron.

This officer has completed a number of sea reconnaissances from Australia and other flights of a reconnaissance character in operating against the enemy in the Celebes Ambon area, including a continuous reconnaissance of the large invasion fleet which was strongly supported by fighter aircraft. Despite frequent attacks Flying Officer White courageously, persistently and with outstanding skill, continued his reconnaissance until the enemy were within 10 miles of their objective. Although his aircraft was so seriously damaged that it could no longer be flown his successful reconnaissance enabled the land forces to occupy the most favourable positions possible prior to attack. Flying Officer White's actions during this trying and difficult period constituted an epic story of courage, determination, skill and devotion to duty.

Air Ministry,
22nd May, 1942.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following award in recognition of brave conduct:—

Military Medal.

506149 Flight Sergeant Harold Theakston GIBBS, No. 830 Squadron (since deceased).

Flight Sergeant Gibbs has invariably displayed courage and determination in the defence of his aerodrome during enemy air attacks. He has been constantly on duty in manning a machine-gun post, which he erected himself, and has destroyed 1 enemy aircraft and probably destroyed 7 more. He has always been willing to give any assistance necessary after raids. This airman's fearlessness has set a fine example to all.

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