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*Air Ministry,
7th August, 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 Edward Preston WELLS, D.F.C. (N.Z.39950), Royal New Zealand Air Force.

This officer has completed many operational sorties. He has destroyed 11, probably destroyed 3 and damaged many more hostile aircraft. His courage, skill and initiative have proved a source of inspiration to his colleagues and his fine leadership has contributed materially to the many successes achieved by the wing.

Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant Leslie Ronald BARR, D.F.C. (43627), No. 15 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Barr was the captain of an aircraft detailed to attack submarine slipways at Lubeck. In adverse weather and in the face of strong enemy ground defences, he vigorously attacked the target from an extremely low level although his aircraft had been hit many times by shell fire. This officer is an extremely cool and courageous captain whose persistence and determination to ensure success have been outstanding.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Flying Officer Neville Arthur BENNITT (100634), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 15 Squadron.

As captain of aircraft, this officer participated in an attack on the submarine slipways at Lubeck. In spite of adverse weather and heavy opposition from the ground defences he pressed home his attack from a low level. Flying Officer Bennitt has completed many operational sorties and has at all times displayed great courage and determination to accomplish his tasks.

Pilot Officer Wilbert Andrew SHOEMAKER (Can./J. 7035), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 15 Squadron.

This officer captained an aircraft detailed to attack the submarine slipways at Lubeck. Despite bad weather and strong opposition from the ground defences he attacked his objective from a height of only 500 feet. He also directed the fire of his gunners on searchlight positions and machine-gun posts, several of which were put out of action. Pilot Officer Shoemaker has invariably set a high standard of skill, determination and courage.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

N.Z.404924 Flight Sergeant Valentine Stuart MOORE, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 57 Squadron.

One night in June, 1942, Flight Sergeant Moore captained an aircraft which successfully attacked Bremen in bad weather. During the return journey, to avoid the heavy clouds, he descended to about 300 feet and whilst at this height he enabled his gunners to machine-gun towns and factories en route. Shortly after crossing the enemy coast, considerable anti-aircraft fire was encountered from 3 armed ships. The starboard main plane was hit and set on fire, but Flight Sergeant Moore turned and attacked the 3 E-boats. The fire had now spread considerably and as the aircraft would not maintain height, he was compelled to alight on the water. On impact, the nose of the aircraft dived steeply into the water but Flight Sergeant Moore and two members of his crew were able to scramble out and board the dinghy, from which they were rescued some 37 hours later. In the face of harassing circumstances this airman displayed great courage and fortitude.

Can/R.79681 Sergeant Frederick Joseph MORITZ, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 420 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

One night in June, 1942, Sergeant Moritz was the wireless operator/air gunner of an aircraft which attacked Emden. During the return flight his aircraft was intercepted by a Junkers 88. In the ensuing engagement, Sergeant Moritz was wounded in the leg while the rear gunner was seriously wounded and stunned. Sergeant Moritz, despite his wound, gave skilful avoiding instructions to his pilot and, manning his guns, fired at the enemy aircraft which fell away and was probably destroyed. Sergeant Moritz then administered first-aid to the rear gunner before returning to his wireless set which he manned until the aircraft landed safely at base. By his courage and determination, Sergeant Moritz contributed materially to the safe return of his aircraft.

*Air Ministry,
7th August, 1942.*

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

Flg. Offs. (prob.) confmd. in appts.:—

J. GILMOUR, D.F.M. (45842). 22nd May 1942.

T. W. NEWBERRY (46017). 28th June 1942.

Plt. Offs. (prob.) confmd. in appts. and to be Flg. Offs. (war subs.):—

15th May 1942.

L. J. MOUNTJOY (47210).

F. E. F. PRINCE (47405).