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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.

Acting Squadron Leader Arthur ASHWORTH, D.F.C. (43699) No. 75 (N.Z.) Squadron.

Throughout the numerous sorties which Squadron Leader Ashworth has completed, many of them in the Middle East, this officer has displayed utter fearlessness and a magnificent determination to reach and bomb his allotted target despite all odds. His great skill and efficiency as a captain of aircraft have been an excellent example and stimulus to the entire squadron.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant William Roy GREENSLADE (45202) No. 149 Squadron.

One night in July, 1942, this officer was captain of an aircraft detailed to attack Hamburg. Whilst over the target area the aircraft was held in the beams of searchlights and subjected to heavy anti-aircraft fire. One engine was put out of action and the astro-hatch shattered. In spite of this, Flight Lieutenant Greenslade pressed home his attack. On the return flight, searchlight positions and gun emplacements were machine-gunned from a low level. This officer, who invariably completes his operational tasks with skill and determination, displayed great devotion to duty throughout.

Flying Officer John Rutherford STERNE (Can/J.5831), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 174 Squadron.

This officer has displayed a fine fighting spirit, which, combined with his complete disregard of danger, has won the confidence and admiration of his fellow pilots. He has secured notable successes in night bombing attacks on enemy shipping. In one period of 3 nights, when operating alone against shipping he destroyed a 4,000 ton ship which was heavily defended by some 12 escort vessels, and damaged several armed ships with machine gun fire; he has also assisted in the destruction of a 1,200 ton enemy coaster in daylight.

Pilot Officer Donald Joseph CURTIN (Can/J.9340), Royal Canadian Air Force.

One night in July, 1942, this officer was captain of an aircraft detailed to attack a target in North West Germany. When nearing the target area, his aircraft was intercepted by an enemy fighter, but

Pilot Officer Curtin safely evaded it and flew on to the objective. Shortly after leaving the target area his aircraft was again intercepted by enemy fighters. In the ensuing engagement, the rear gunner and wireless operator were badly wounded. Pilot Officer Curtin was almost blinded by cordite from a bursting shell and the aircraft lost height by several thousand feet before the captain was able to clear his eyes and regain control. Later when nearing the Dutch coast, the bomber was hit by fire from the ground defences; the navigator sustained wounds and the aircraft was damaged. Despite this, Pilot Officer Curtin flew on and eventually reached this country. In difficult circumstances, he made a safe landing in a field. Afterwards, he assisted his wounded crew from the aircraft and then went off for further help. In this, his first operational flight, Pilot Officer Curtin displayed great courage, determination and devotion to duty.

Pilot Officer John Brock HIGHAM (Can/J.7080), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 419 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

One night in July, 1942, this officer was captain of an aircraft which attacked Dusseldorf. When approaching the target area, one engine of his aircraft failed and caught fire. Despite this, Pilot Officer Higham resolutely flew on and successfully bombed the target in the face of considerable opposition from the ground defences. On the return flight, the aircraft began to lose height until Pilot Officer Higham ordered certain equipment to be jettisoned. He was thus able to maintain height at some 2,000 feet, and eventually succeeded in flying the damaged aircraft back to a base in this country where he made a skilful landing. Throughout, this officer displayed great determination and devotion to duty.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

N.Z.40770 Flight Sergeant Ernest Leslie JOYCE, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 73 Squadron.

During a long and continuous period of service, this airman has performed splendid work. In low level machine gun attacks on enemy ground targets he has displayed great determination and achieved much success. On one occasion, at night, he participated in an attack on the aerodrome at Martuba. Despite heavy defensive fire, he machine-gunned dispersed aircraft on the ground from only 50 feet. In this vigorous attack he assisted in the probable destruction of several enemy aircraft. On another occasion at night, he observed a Junkers 88 flying at some 400 feet above him. Skilfully manoeuvring his aircraft he closed in on the rear of the enemy aircraft whose pilot began to take