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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 Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader Keith Louis Bate HODSON (Can/C.807), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 401 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has participated in a large number of sorties. He is a skilful pilot, whose personal example has inspired the squadron he commands. Much of the success it has achieved can be attributed to Squadron Leader Hodson's excellent leadership.

Squadron Leader Jefferson Heywood WEDGWOOD (37645), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 92 Squadron.

In August, 1942, whilst patrolling the battle area, this officer led his squadron brilliantly in an attack against a superior number of enemy fighters. Despite the odds, Squadron Leader Wedgwood so disposed his squadron that, during the combat, at least 4 enemy aircraft were destroyed and several more were damaged. Throughout, this officer who, in the fighting, shot down a Messerschmitt 109F, displayed great tactical ability. Squadron Leader Wedgwood has always set a most courageous example. He has destroyed at least 6 and damaged many more hostile aircraft.

Flying Officer James Gillies BENSON (81365), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 141 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Lewis BRANDON (116886), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 141 Squadron.

Flying Officer Benson and Pilot Officer Brandon have flown together in night operations as pilot and observer respectively. One night in February, 1942, they destroyed a Dornier 217. In a previous sortie, Flying Officer Benson destroyed a Heinkel 111. Both these officers have always displayed a high standard of efficiency and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Kenneth Robinson GRANT (65568), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 39 Squadron.

During August, 1942, this officer took part in an air attack on an enemy supply vessel, which resulted in its destruction. A few days later he led a force of torpedo-carrying aircraft in an attack on another supply vessel. Although it was escorted by a destroyer, Flying Officer Grant led his formation in to close range and sank the supply ship. This officer, who has completed several shipping strikes, has displayed great skill and determination.

Flying Officer Alexander Ian McRITCHIE (89763), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 151 Squadron.

Flying Officer McRitchie is a skilful and determined fighter. In one patrol, at dusk, in October, 1941, he attacked 4 Junkers 88's flying in formation at almost sea-level and about 50 miles from the coast. A running fight ensued and Flying Officer McRitchie shot down one of the enemy aircraft. Despite difficulties, he fought the others until they reached the Dutch coast. In all his combats, this officer has displayed outstanding courage. He has destroyed 4 hostile aircraft at night.

Flying Officer John Lloyd WADDY (Aus. 402685), Royal Australian Air Force.

This officer has displayed masterly airmanship as a fighter pilot. When participating with a force which intercepted about 20 enemy aircraft he destroyed 2 Junkers 52's and 2 Messerschmitt 110's. In more recent sorties Flying Officer Waddy has destroyed 4 other enemy aircraft bringing his total victories to at least 11. He has at all times shown great courage and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Leslie Victor WORSDELL (84694), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 39 Squadron.

This officer has participated in several successful attacks on enemy shipping. In September, 1942, he led a formation against a convoy of 4 merchant vessels, escorted by 11 destroyers and a number of aircraft. Despite this formidable opposition, the objective was attacked from close range. Afterwards, when his aircraft was attacked by enemy fighters, Flying Officer Worsdell, by skilful tactics, prevented them from causing damage to his aircraft. On a previous occasion, following an attack when enemy shipping was sunk, Flying Officer Worsdell saw one of his fellow pilots in difficulties with engine trouble. Despite the presence of enemy fighters, Flying Officer Worsdell remained to protect his comrade and escorted him back to base. This officer has displayed great courage and inspiring leadership which have won the confidence of all with whom he has flown.

Pilot Officer Richard Sampson Orlebar MARSHALL (Aus. 402244), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 39 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in several successful raids on enemy shipping. In June, 1942, he participated in an attack on an Italian naval force. Although his aircraft was severely damaged by anti-aircraft fire, he flew it back to base. In September, 1942, he participated in an attack on a convoy of 4 merchant vessels, heavily escorted by 11 destroyers and fighter aircraft. In spite of this formidable opposition, Pilot Officer Marshall