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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.

Flying Officer John Patrick TRENCH (68742) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 7 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Pilot Officer Crofton Lustleigh SELMAN (109922) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 7 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

986411 Sergeant Ivor John EDWARDS, No. 7 Squadron.

One night in September, 1942, Flying Officer Trench, Pilot Officer Selman and Sergeant Edwards were captain, navigator and wireless operator respectively of an aircraft of a bomber force which attacked Dusseldorf. Whilst over the target area, the aircraft was repeatedly hit by anti-aircraft fire. The petrol tanks were pierced, while some oil pipe lines were severed. In spite of this, Flying Officer Trench persisted in his mission and the target was bombed successfully. On the return journey, the aircraft lost height. All moveable equipment, even parachutes, were jettisoned in an effort to maintain height and the North Sea was eventually crossed at between 100 and 200 feet. After crossing the English Coast, the aircraft was force-landed and, on impact with the ground, burst into flames. Flying Officer Trench and Sergeant Edwards were rendered unconscious but Pilot Officer Selman, with complete disregard of danger, extricated his comrades and pulled them clear of the burning aircraft. Throughout, these members of the crew of this aircraft displayed great courage, fortitude and devotion to duty in the face of extremely harassing circumstances.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commander Lennox Gordon Douglas FRASER (Can./C.1283), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 405 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed many sorties, including 5 against Essen in the face of much opposition. One night in September, 1942, he piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Bremen. On the outward flight engine trouble was experienced but Wing Commander Fraser flew on to the town and bombed it. During the return journey engine trouble still persisted and the rear turret became unserviceable. An enemy fighter attempted to attack. Skilfully manoeuvring his aircraft, however, Wing Commander Fraser evaded the fighter thus averting a perilous situation. He eventually made a safe landing at an aerodrome in this country. On two other occasions, this officer has flown his aircraft safely back to England in most difficult

circumstances. He has at all times displayed exceptional airmanship and great courage.

Squadron Leader Roy Pryce ELLIOTT (39631), No. 83 Squadron.

Squadron Leader Elliott has completed many sorties which have included bombing attacks on many of the enemy's most strongly defended objectives. In September, he was pilot of an aircraft which participated in an attack on Duisberg. The aircraft was heavily engaged by searchlights and accurate anti-aircraft fire. Nevertheless, Squadron Leader Elliott, showing fine flying skill and resolute determination, successfully completed his mission from a low attitude and returned to base. By his excellent operational record, his courage and efficiency, he has won the respect of all members of his squadron.

Flight Lieutenant John Angus MACLEAN (Can./C.1107), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 405 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

One night in September, Flight Lieutenant MacLean was captain of an aircraft engaged in an attack on a target in the Ruhr. During the bombing run heavy anti-aircraft fire was encountered. The aircraft sustained damage; the aileron became jammed and when another shell burst immediately below the port wing the aircraft turned on its back and went into an inverted spiral dive. Flight Lieutenant MacLean recovered control of the aircraft and released his bombs on the target. On the return flight the aircraft was attacked from below by an enemy fighter. Further damage was sustained. Shortly afterwards both the port engines failed as the fuel system had been shot away. Despite great efforts on the part of Flight Lieutenant MacLean the bomber eventually became completely uncontrollable and both he and his crew were compelled to leave it by parachute. Throughout this hazardous operation this officer displayed great gallantry, fortitude and devotion to duty.

Pilot Officer George Frederick BEURLING, D.F.M. (128707) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 249 Squadron.

Since being awarded a Bar to the Distinguished Flying Medal, this officer has shot down a further 3 hostile aircraft, bringing his total victories to 20. One day in September, 1942, he and another pilot engaged 4 enemy fighters. In the ensuing combat, Pilot Officer Beurling destroyed 2 of them. As a relentless fighter, whose determination and will to win has won the admiration of his colleagues, this officer has set an example in keeping with the highest traditions of the Royal Air Force.

Pilot Officer Verdun Ashley SCOTT (109027), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

One night in September, 1942, this officer captained an aircraft detailed to attack Bremen. Displaying good airmanship, Pilot Officer Scott reached