

*Air Ministry, 30th October, 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 Flying Cross.*

Group Captain Donald Leslie THOMSON.

Group Captain Thomson has participated recently in several bombing sorties, all of which were successful. He is a most inspiring leader whose skill has contributed materially to the high standard of efficiency of the unit which he commands.

Wing Commander Howard Bertram JOHNSON (37182) No. 210 Squadron.

This officer was the second pilot of a Catalina aircraft which was attacked by a Junkers 88 whilst flying in the Arctic Ocean. In the engagement, the captain was killed but Wing Commander Johnson assumed control and flew the aircraft back to the coast where he effected a safe landing in difficult circumstances. Throughout, he displayed excellent leadership.

Wing Commander Grant Moore LINDEMAN (37302) No. 455 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer displayed great leadership during recent operations in North Russia. The high morale of his squadron in the face of bad weather and enemy opposition can be largely attributed to this officer's fine example.

Wing Commander James McLAUGHLIN (36068) No. 144 Squadron.

During recent operations in North Russia, this officer displayed outstanding leadership and efficiency. In the face of adverse weather and enemy opposition, his fine example inspired his fellow pilots.

Acting Squadron Leader Peter Lawson CALDWELL (85651) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. No. 418 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed numerous operational sorties, many of them at night. Besides gaining success in defensive patrols Squadron Leader Caldwell has proved himself to be a determined intruder pilot whose skill has been reflected in the work of the flight which he commands. He destroyed 1 enemy aircraft while engaged on defensive patrol duties.

Flight Lieutenant Edward Armytage FAIRHURST (43547).

During operations in North Russia, this officer displayed great organising ability and leadership. His cheerful acceptance of the most hazardous tasks contributed materially to the high morale and efficiency of his unit.

Flight Lieutenant Beric LEWIN (40720), No. 210 Squadron.

During recent operations in North Russia, this officer completed many hours operational flying. Throughout, his devotion to duty was outstanding. On one occasion he completed a hazardous sortie of over 20 hours duration. Within 24 hours, he was again in the air on a similar sortie. His aircraft was attacked by an enemy fighter but Flight Lieutenant Lewin skilfully drove it off. Although his own aircraft was damaged, he flew it safely to base. The next day, he was again engaged on a hazardous operational mission.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Robin Lewes HANSON (88666), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

In September, 1942, this officer was the pilot of an aircraft detailed to undertake an anti-submarine sweep over a convoy which was being attacked by U-boats. Adverse weather prevailed but in spite of this Flight Lieutenant Hanson located the convoy and observed 5 U-boats which he attacked with bombs and machine-gun fire. In his first attack, on a surfaced U-boat travelling at high speed in the wake of the convoy, Flight Lieutenant Hanson achieved complete surprise and straddled it with bombs. When his bombs were all released, he continued to attack with machine-gun fire, forcing the remaining U-boats to submerge and cease their attack. This officer has always displayed great skill and determination.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Alexander Kenneth Stebbing McCURDY (82683), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 18 Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties both by day and by night. He has displayed a high standard of operational efficiency

and has always endeavoured to press home his attacks whatever the opposition. On one occasion, when detailed to attack an enemy aerodrome at night, he achieved much success. Aerodrome buildings were bombed and machine-gunned; one bomb exploded near an enemy aircraft which had just landed. His skill and gallantry have set a praiseworthy example.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Gilbert George POTIER (61244), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 210 Squadron.

This officer has completed over 900 hours operational flying. During the past two months, his work has been exceptional. In operations in North Russia he completed many sorties, three of them in hazardous circumstances. On one occasion, during a convoy escort, his attacks forced 2 U-boats to submerge. He subsequently directed surface craft in action against them, with great efficiency. His outstanding ability and good leadership have set a praiseworthy example.

Flying Officer Arthur Henry Burr BURR (66513), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

In September, 1942, 15 enemy aircraft attempted an attack on a convoy voyaging in the Arctic Ocean, Flying Officer Burr, whose aircraft was launched by catapult from the deck of one of the ships, engaged the enemy force with great skill and daring. Despite the odds, he destroyed one of the attackers and drove the others off. After ensuring that the enemy had abandoned their attack, Flying Officer Burr set course for land and reached an aerodrome with only a few gallons of petrol left in the tanks. This officer, who has always completed his tasks with similar determination, displayed great courage and devotion to duty throughout.

Flying Officer Hugh Graham Stanhope WYRILL (89626), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 255 Squadron.

This officer has displayed great keenness and devotion to duty in night-flying operations. He has destroyed 2 enemy aircraft. He has set a most praiseworthy example.

Pilot Officer James GRANT (49543), No. 18 Squadron.

As wireless operator/air gunner this officer has participated in numerous operational missions. On one occasion in June, 1942, during an intruder sortie over an enemy aerodrome, his skilful work was of the greatest assistance to his pilot and contributed materially to the success of the operation. On another occasion, during an air sea rescue sortie, his outstanding wireless skill was largely responsible for the success achieved. Throughout his operational career, this officer has displayed great courage and devotion to duty.

Pilot Officer Charles William PALMER (Can/J.15818), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 405 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has participated in many operational missions. One night in October, 1942, he captained an aircraft detailed to attack Flensburg. In spite of intense searchlight activity over the target area, Pilot Officer Palmer pressed home his attack from a low level. After his bombs were released he dived and enabled his gunners to machine-gun searchlights, several of which were damaged. On the return journey, he flew on at a low altitude to allow his gunners to fire at a variety of ground targets. This officer has at all times displayed skill and gallantry in the execution of his tasks.

Pilot Officer Geoffrey SILVA (Aus.402258), Royal Australian Air Force.

In July, 1942, this officer captained an aircraft detailed to attack Dusseldorf. Whilst over the target area, the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. The wireless operator was wounded and the rear turret was damaged. Despite this, the attack was pressed home and the target bombed successfully. Shortly after leaving the objective the aircraft was intercepted by an enemy fighter, fire from which caused much damage. In most hazardous circumstances Pilot Officer Silva displayed courage and fortitude in keeping with the highest traditions of the Royal Air Force.

Warrant Officer John Frederick POTTER (580808), No. 23 Squadron.

Warrant Officer Potter is a most efficient member of aircraft crew. As navigator of a bomber aircraft he has participated in numerous attacks on important targets in Germany and in the