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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 Flight Lieutenant James Fraser BARRON, D.F.C., D.F.M. (N.Z.401749), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 7 Squadron.

One night in February, 1943, this officer was the captain of an aircraft detailed to attack Cologne. When nearing the target area his aircraft was held in a cone of searchlights and subjected to heavy fire from the ground defences. Despite this, Flight Lieutenant Barron remained on his course, defying an intense and concentrated barrage and pressed home a successful attack on his second run over the target. This officer displayed exceptional gallantry and devotion to duty, setting an example of the highest order.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Denis Arthur PENNINGTON (41949), No. 151 Squadron.

This officer is a keen and determined fighter, whose skill has been reflected in the high standard of operational efficiency of the flight he commands. Squadron Leader Pennington has served with an operational unit since September 1939. On one occasion, he took part in a sortie when his squadron attacked an enemy airfield and destroyed 20 aircraft on the ground. In combat, this officer has destroyed 3 enemy aircraft.

Acting Squadron Leader Geoffrey Berrington WARNES (78429), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 263 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Herbert John BLACKSHAW (111980), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 263 Squadron.

Squadron Leader Warnes and Flight Lieutenant Blackshaw have participated in a great number of sorties, achieving many successes. On one occasion these pilots attacked and sank an armed trawler, whilst on another sortie they delivered a destructive attack on a distillery. In low level raids on enemy airfields and other ground targets they have invariably pressed home their attacks with great determination. Squadron Leader Warnes, who wears contact lenses to correct his sight for flying, and Flight Lieutenant Blackshaw have displayed high qualities of leadership and outstanding keenness.

Flying Officer Alan Derek WAGNER (65993), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 151 Squadron.

In all his combats this officer has displayed great determination and resource. During a patrol over this country one night in 1941 he sighted a Heinkel 111 but, whilst making his attack, his turret became jammed with his guns in the beam position. Despite this, he closed in on the enemy aircraft and, by skilfully manoeuvring his aircraft, he fired his guns from their rigid position and shot the enemy aircraft down. Flying Officer Wagner continued his patrol and sighted another enemy aircraft which he attacked and damaged by similar tactics. This officer has rendered valuable service in the Middle East and, while in Ceylon, he destroyed 2 Japanese bombers.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Wing Commander William Peter SHAND (33285), No. 139 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1109629 Flight Sergeant Christopher Dinsdale HANDLEY, No. 139 Squadron.

In February, 1943, Wing Commander Shand and Flight Sergeant Handley were pilot and navigator respectively of the leading aircraft of a section of bombers detailed to attack the locomotive sheds at Tours in daylight. On the outward journey, which involved a flight of more than 100 miles over strongly defended enemy territory, adverse weather was encountered along almost the whole route. Despite this, brilliant navigation by Flight Sergeant Handley enabled his pilot to reach the target exactly as planned. Making a skilful approach, Wing Commander Shand led his section into the attack and the target was accurately bombed from a low level. By their exceptional skill and determination Wing Commander Shand and Flight Sergeant Handley contributed largely to the success of the operation. They have previously flown together on several daring daylight sorties.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

956072 Sergeant Kenneth Powell LEACH, No. 235 Squadron.

As navigator, Sergeant Leach has flown on many operational missions. On several occasions, when his aircraft has sustained damage in encounters with the enemy, his skilful work has contributed materially to its safe return to base. In February, 1943, during a reconnaissance flight, his aircraft was attacked by 2 enemy fighters. During the engagement Sergeant Leach was wounded in the