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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 Alfred Henry Wynne BALL, D.F.C. (33532)

This officer has completed many reconnaissances over various towns, ports and airfields occupied by the enemy in Tunisia. In addition he has made flights over Leghorn and Spezia in Italy. On one occasion, over Tunisia, his aircraft was attacked by 4 enemy fighters. By brilliant airmanship, Squadron Leader Ball frustrated the attackers, and eventually shook them off. Although his aircraft was damaged he flew on to an airfield where he effected a safe landing. He is a fine leader who has contributed materially to the high standard of efficiency of the unit he commands.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross

Acting Squadron Leader James Elmslee WALKER, D.F.C. (Can/J 3199), Royal Canadian Air Force, No 243 Squadron.

In operations in North Africa, Squadron Leader Walker has destroyed 4 enemy aircraft. By his great skill, fine leadership and untiring efforts, this officer has won high praise.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Murray Crighton Bell ANDERSON, D.F.C. (44673)

In the campaign in North Africa, this officer has completed many long range photographic reconnaissance. He has displayed great skill and devotion to duty, setting an example worthy of the highest praise.

Distinguished Flying Cross

Acting Squadron Leader Patrick Percival Wilkinson SANDS (43635), No. 142 Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of operational missions. In September, 1942, he undertook a mine-laying mission in the face of extremely adverse weather. During the flight the wireless apparatus and inter-communication and electrical systems of his aircraft became unserviceable. Despite this, he accomplished his task successfully and flew the aircraft back to an airfield where he was compelled to effect a forced landing. On 2 more recent occasions, Squadron Leader Sands has displayed great skill and fortitude when undertaking flights in extremely bad weather. He has invariably displayed great courage, pressing home his attacks with exceptional resolution.

Flight Lieutenant Douglas Ian BENHAM (104443), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 242 Squadron

Flight Lieutenant Benham is a skilful and determined pilot. He has destroyed 6 and damaged several more enemy aircraft. He is a most inspiring leader.

Flying Officer Joseph Richard BYLES (129924), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No 150 Squadron

This officer has taken part in a large number of sorties, involving attacks on targets in Germany and, more recently, in Tunisia. He is a most capable and determined navigator, whose example in face of trying circumstances has merited high praise. On several occasions, the aircraft in which he was flying has been attacked by enemy fighters, once his aircraft was hit in no less than 40 places.

Pilot Officer Lewis Marmaduke Cavanaugh (Can/J 9066), Royal Canadian Air Force, No 150 Squadron

As wireless operator, this officer has participated in many sorties, involving attacks on various and heavily defended targets in Germany and, more recently, against targets in Tunisia. On one occasion he was a member of an aircraft crew detailed to undertake a mine-laying mission. During the operation, whilst leaving the target area, the aircraft was subjected to intense anti-aircraft fire and the captain was hit in the leg. Pilot Officer Cavanaugh immediately went to his aid and, by observing the enemy's fire from the ground defences, was able to direct his captain to take successful evading action. He then rendered first aid to his wounded comrade. Pilot Officer Cavanaugh's promptitude and coolness contributed materially to the safe return of the aircraft.

Pilot Officer John LEE (133032), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No 93 Squadron

This officer has completed a large number of sorties. In operations in North Africa he has displayed great skill and determination. Pilot Officer Lee, who has destroyed 3 enemy aircraft is a fine section leader.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader James Frederick Henry BOOTH (37958), No 142 Squadron

Distinguished Flying Medal

1317475 Sergeant Jack EDWARDS, No. 142 Squadron 911963 Leading Aircraftman James Arthur SKINGSLEY, No 142 Squadron.

One night in January, 1943, Squadron Leader Booth, Sergeant Edwards and Leading Aircraftman Skingsley were captain, bomb aimer and acting flight engineer respectively of an aircraft which