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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.

Wing Commander Wynne Somers Goodrich MAYDWELL, D.F.C. (25075), No. 14 Squadron.

Wing Commander Maydwell is a courageous and forceful leader, whose great skill and personal example have contributed in a large measure to the high standard of operational efficiency of the squadron he commands. He has completed 4 reconnaissances over the Aegean sea by day. On 2 other occasions he has undertaken hazardous mine-laying missions. The success of the second of these latter sorties was achieved by the faultless execution of his bold plans.

Acting Wing Commander Maurice Larwood GAINÉ, A.F.C. (36120), No. 39 Squadron.

This officer has displayed outstanding skill in attacks on shipping in the Mediterranean. In September, 1942, he led a successful attack on a merchant vessel escorted by 3 destroyers. Some weeks later he participated in an attack on a medium sized supply ship. When the attack was broken off, black smoke was seen to be pouring from the vessel. In March, 1943, he led a formation of torpedo carrying aircraft in an attack on a large merchant vessel escorted by 3 destroyers and fighter aircraft. Hits were obtained on the vessel and it subsequently sank. During the operation Wing Commander Gainé shot down an enemy fighter. This officer has displayed great courage, keenness and devotion to duty.

Flight Lieutenant Neville Frederick DUKE, D.F.C. (61054), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 92 Squadron.

In recent intensive air fighting this officer has led his flight and often the squadron on most of the sorties which have been undertaken. He has displayed exceptional skill and dash, achieving great success. During the first week in March, 1943, he destroyed 7 enemy aircraft, bringing his total victories to 19. His courageous leadership and fine fighting qualities are worthy of the highest praise.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Major Donald Pax TILLEY, D.F.C. (102179), South African Air Force, No. 39 Squadron.

In attacks on enemy shipping, Major Tilley has displayed great courage and determination. In January, 1943, he took part in a successful attack on a merchant vessel. One night in February, 1943, he attacked a medium sized

supply ship. In spite of heavy opposing fire from its 2 escorting destroyers, Major Tilley succeeded in completing his attack. A few nights later, during a search for an enemy convoy, he sighted a large tanker escorted by 4 other craft. In the face of intensive anti-aircraft fire he immediately attacked the tanker, hitting it amidships and causing its destruction. This officer is an outstanding captain who has accomplished excellent work in the disruption of the enemy's line of supply.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader Russell Merriman MACKENZIE, A.F.C. (40245), No. 46 Squadron.

This officer is a first class leader, whose great skill and keenness have won the entire confidence of all with whom he has flown. In operations in the Western Desert he took part in numerous attacks on rail and road transport. More recently he has taken part in many convoy patrols in the Mediterranean and intruder sorties over airfields in Sicily. On 1 of the latter his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and 1 of its engines was put out of action. Despite this, he flew the aircraft to base, landing it safely in the darkness. In air combat, Squadron Leader Mackenzie has destroyed 4 enemy aircraft.

Squadron Leader John STARR (37834), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 23 Squadron.

This officer has completed 36 sorties, involving attacks on airfields, factories and marshalling yards, achieving much success. He has made persistent attacks on railways in Sicily and Tunis. One night in January, 1943, he destroyed an enemy aircraft over its airfield and, on 3 other such sorties, he has damaged 4 more. Squadron Leader Starr, who has displayed great courage and determination, is an outstanding pilot.

Acting Squadron Leader George Byrne Stanislaus COLEMAN (28146), No. 272 Squadron.

This officer has completed a very large number of operational missions, including a number of daylight attacks on shipping. In night attacks on the enemy's communications he has bombed railway junctions and machine-gunned locomotives with success; he has also destroyed 4 enemy aircraft. On one occasion, after attacking two ships, he was forced to bring his aircraft down on to the sea when 1 of the engines caught fire. He spent several hours in the water before being picked up. The next day Squadron Leader Coleman led a successful attack on a merchant vessel escorted by 3 armed ships. In spite of heavy anti-aircraft fire from the ships and coastal batteries he succeeded in obtaining hits on the supply ship. This officer has invariably displayed courage, skill and determination.