



SUPPLEMENT

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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 David Foster DENNIS, D.F.C. (64274), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 21 Squadron.

This officer has participated in 53 sorties, invariably displaying exceptional skill and determination. One afternoon in April, 1943, he flew the leading aircraft of a bomber formation detailed to attack railway installations at Abbeville. During the operation much fighter opposition was encountered and his formation was subjected to simultaneous attack from the rear and ahead. In the engagement, Flight Lieutenant Dennis displayed inspiring leadership, proving a tower of strength. By his personal example and sterling qualities, this officer has contributed materially to the high standard of morale and efficiency of the squadron.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Percy Frank ALLEN, D.F.C. (102973), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 68 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer Geoffrey Edgcombe BENNETT (103517), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 68 Squadron.

As pilot and observer of aircraft respectively, these officers have displayed great skill in night flying operations. One night in March, 1943, they engaged and destroyed 2 enemy aircraft bringing their total victories to 4. Both these members of aircraft crew have displayed great keenness and determination.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader Michael Hugh CONSTABLE-MAXWELL (36219), No. 264 Squadron.

This officer has a fine operational record. He fought in the Battle of Britain, destroying 1 and probably destroying another enemy aircraft. Since the beginning of 1943, he has taken part in many operations. In attacks on the enemy's lines of communication he has damaged a number of locomotives. In February, 1943, he pressed home an attack on a power station, causing much destruction. Squadron Leader Constable-Maxwell has displayed great skill and inspiring leadership.

Acting Squadron Leader Patrick John Emmerton RITCHIE (42767), No. 143 Squadron.

This officer has completed much operational flying and has displayed great skill and high qualities of leadership. On one occasion he led a formation of aircraft acting as fighter escort to a force of torpedo carrying aircraft. Enemy fighter

opposition was encountered and in the ensuing combats, Squadron Leader Ritchie displayed skilful leadership in frustrating attempts by enemy fighters to interfere with the torpedo-carrying aircraft he was escorting.

Flight Lieutenant John Alexander ATKINSON (86376), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 609 Squadron.

This officer, who has taken part in 45 sorties, is a courageous and determined fighter. In a sortie in January, 1943, he destroyed a Focke Wulf 190. On another occasion, in February, 1943, he engaged an enemy bomber in extremely adverse weather. Later in the month, he shot down an enemy aircraft after a long pursuit. Flight Lieutenant Atkinson has set a fine example of keenness and devotion to duty.

Acting Flight Lieutenant John Joseph LYNCH (103470), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 249 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Lynch has completed 97 sorties, including many sweeps and fighter bomber operations over Sicily. He has organised and led many sorties over areas in which the enemy was expected to be very active and, on 3 such operations, he destroyed a total of 4 enemy aircraft. In one low level bombing attack, Flight Lieutenant Lynch destroyed a locomotive while, on the return flight, he shot down an enemy air transport by machine gun fire. This officer is a fine fighter whose great skill and devotion to duty have contributed materially to the success of the squadron he commands.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Charles McLoughlin MAGWOOD (Can/J.5975), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 403 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

In April, 1943, this officer was engaged in escorting a bomber force during an operational sortie. Much fighter opposition was encountered and, in the ensuing combats, Flight Lieutenant Magwood shot down 2 enemy aircraft. The previous day, he engaged a Focke Wulf 190 from close range and his accurate fire caused the enemy aircraft to disintegrate in the air. Flight Lieutenant Magwood, who has completed 51 sorties, has invariably displayed great courage and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Philip HARVEY (102571), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 263 Squadron (since missing).

This officer has taken part in 26 sorties during which successful attacks have been made on shipping and on railway installations. During an attack on a railway installation, an aircraft of the formation in which Flying Officer Harvey was flying was hit by anti-aircraft fire. Displaying great determination, this officer escorted the damaged aircraft on the return flight until its pilot was compelled to bring it down on to the sea. Flying Officer Harvey flew on and landed at an airfield