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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 Wing Commander Herbert Ashton CLARK, D.F.C. (43414), No. 37 Squadron.

This officer has rendered valuable service owing to his exceptional ability, great drive and unflinching devotion to duty. During a period of intense air fighting in April, 1943, his tireless efforts were reflected in the fine work accomplished by the squadron. In addition to his work on the ground, Wing Commander Clark took part in numerous sorties in Tripolitania and Tunisia, all of which were brilliantly executed. He has displayed outstanding leadership, skill and courage which have won the admiration of all.

Acting Wing Commander Jack Fendick ROULSTON, D.F.C. (37640), No. 55 Squadron.

This officer is a brilliant leader, whose courage and tenacity in pressing home his attacks in the face of fierce opposition, have been a splendid example. In April, 1943, he flew the leading aircraft of a formation detailed to attack the airfield at Soliman. When nearing the target, the windscreen of his aircraft was shattered by splinters from a bursting shell. Pieces of the broken screen, smoke and dust filled the cockpit. Unperturbed, Wing Commander Roulston led his formation to the objective which was heavily bombed. By his skill and determination, this officer contributed materially to the success of the operation.

Major John Edward PARSONSON (P.102656), South African Air Force, No. 5 Squadron.

This officer is a fearless, determined and skilful fighter, whose example has proved most inspiring. On two occasions his aircraft has been shot down but, displaying great fortitude, Major Parsonson succeeded in rejoining his squadron. In recent air operations in the Tunisian theatre, this officer flew with distinction. In April, he participated in an engagement during which a convoy of transport aircraft was destroyed off the Tunisian coast. A few days later, he led a formation in an attack on a large number of similar aircraft over the Gulf of Tunis. During the action 20 of them were shot down, 2 being destroyed by Major Parsonson. His fine fighting qualities have been worthy of high praise.

Acting Squadron Leader Roland Prosper BEAMONT, D.F.C. (41819), No. 609 Squadron.

This officer is an outstanding leader, whose great skill, drive and determination have contributed in a large measure to the high standard of operational efficiency of the squadron which has achieved great success. Since January, 1943, Squadron Leader Beamont has put out of action 13 locomotives and many lorries in determined attacks at night. This officer has set a most inspiring example.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader Robert Henry GIBBES, D.S.O., D.F.C. (Aus.714), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 3 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has displayed exceptional leadership, skill and courage, contributing in a large measure to the success of the squadron he commands. On one occasion, during an attack on an airfield at Bir Dufan, his aircraft was shot down. After walking for about 50 miles he was picked up by friendly forces and enabled to rejoin his squadron. Since then, Squadron Leader Gibbes has taken part in many sorties, attacking the enemy with vigour. He has destroyed at least 10 and damaged several other enemy aircraft.

Acting Squadron Leader Raymond Hiley HARRIES, D.F.C. (87447), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 91 Squadron.

This officer is a highly efficient squadron commander whose great keenness and energetic leadership have set a worthy example. In recent operations he has destroyed 3 enemy aircraft, shared in the destruction of another and damaged 3 more.

Acting Squadron Leader Lewis Macdonald HODGES, D.F.C. (33408), No. 161 Squadron.

This officer has completed many sorties, achieving much success. He is an extremely efficient and gallant flight commander, whose leadership and unflinching devotion to duty have proved inspiring.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader Hugh Beresford VERITY (72507), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 161 Squadron.

Squadron Leader Verity has participated in 118 sorties. He is a skilful pilot whose example of determination and devotion to duty have proved inspiring. He has rendered excellent service, contributing materially to the high standard of operational efficiency of the squadron.