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Air Ministry, 8th June, 1943.

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:—

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader Kenneth Holstead BURNS, D.F.C. (40340), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 97 Squadron.

One night in May, 1943, this officer captained an aircraft detailed to attack Dortmund. Although on the outward flight, 1 engine in the aircraft became unserviceable, Squadron Leader Burns continued to the target and bombed it. A few nights later, he took part in an attack on a target in Czechoslovakia. Whilst still some 200 miles from the target his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. The airspeed indicator was rendered unserviceable but Squadron Leader Burns flew on to the target where he executed a vigorous attack. On both occasions, this officer displayed great skill and determination.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer Douglas Joseph MOULDEN (124864), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 149 Squadron.

One night in May, 1943, this officer was the pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack Bochum. After crossing the enemy coast, the aircraft was intercepted on 2 occasions by enemy fighters but their attacks were beaten off. When nearing the target area, the bomber was hit by anti-aircraft fire whilst illuminated by searchlights. The navigator's cabin was wrecked, incendiary bombs caught alight, while essential equipment was damaged, causing the aircraft to dive steeply. By a great effort, Flying Officer Moulden succeeded in regaining control. On the return flight, he skilfully evaded enemy fighters which attempted to attack and eventually reached an airfield in this country and effected a masterly landing. In extremely difficult circumstances this officer displayed great skill and tenacity.

Flying Officer Michael VLASTO (108232), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 31 Squadron.

In the campaign in Burma, this officer completed many flights, involving the evacuation of casualties and civilians, and the dropping of supplies to our forces. Flying Officer Vlasto has displayed great courage and outstanding keenness. This was amply demonstrated on one occasion in April, 1943, in the execution of a hazardous flight, which he accomplished successfully. This officer, who has a brilliant record, has set an inspiring example.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

776163 Sergeant Glendinning Arthur COLKETT, No. 98 Squadron.

In May, 1943, this airman was the navigator of an aircraft engaged on an operational sortie. Before the target was reached, Sergeant Colkett was wounded in the leg. Although in great pain he remained at his post until his mission had been fully and successfully completed. Throughout the return flight though in constant pain and suffering from loss of blood he continued his duties. This airman displayed great courage and fortitude, setting a praiseworthy example.

1319955 Sergeant Edmund Wallace ROCHFORD, No. 159 Squadron.

This airman has displayed great keenness and efficiency. One night in April, 1943, he was the rear gunner of a bomber which was attacked by an enemy fighter. During the engagement, the enemy aircraft made a large number of attacks but, coolly and skilfully, Sergeant Rochford kept up a running commentary which enabled his pilot to frustrate the attacker. With a well directed burst, Sergeant Rochford finally destroyed the enemy aircraft. This airman displayed skill and coolness of a high order.

Air Ministry, 8th June 1943.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

Harold Frederick BURDITT, Lt. R.A. (51874) to be Plt. Off. (tempy.) on being employed with the R.A.F. 26th Apr. 1943.

To be Plt. Offs. on prob. (emergency):—
Wt. Offs.

565290 Arthur Herbert Dorrien POND (51845). 1st Dec. 1942.

565155 Kedgewyn Thomas GOOD (51834). 29th Dec. 1942.

581385 Stuart HAMILTON (51833). 30th Jan. 1943.

580043 John PHILLIPS (51804). 14th Feb. 1943.

580715 Michael Joseph JOYCE (51894). 24th Feb. 1943.

581121 Robert Matthew SMALLLEY (51893). 25th Feb. 1943.

358520 George Armstrong DONALDSON, A.F.M. (51832). 28th Feb. 1943.

516311 John James Frank TALBOT (51803). 3rd Mar. 1943.

566266 Clive Albert HUNTER (51896). 4th Mar. 1943.

29th Mar. 1943.
524514 Ernest BUCKLEY, D.F.M. (51802).
514378 Leonard George POPE (51841).